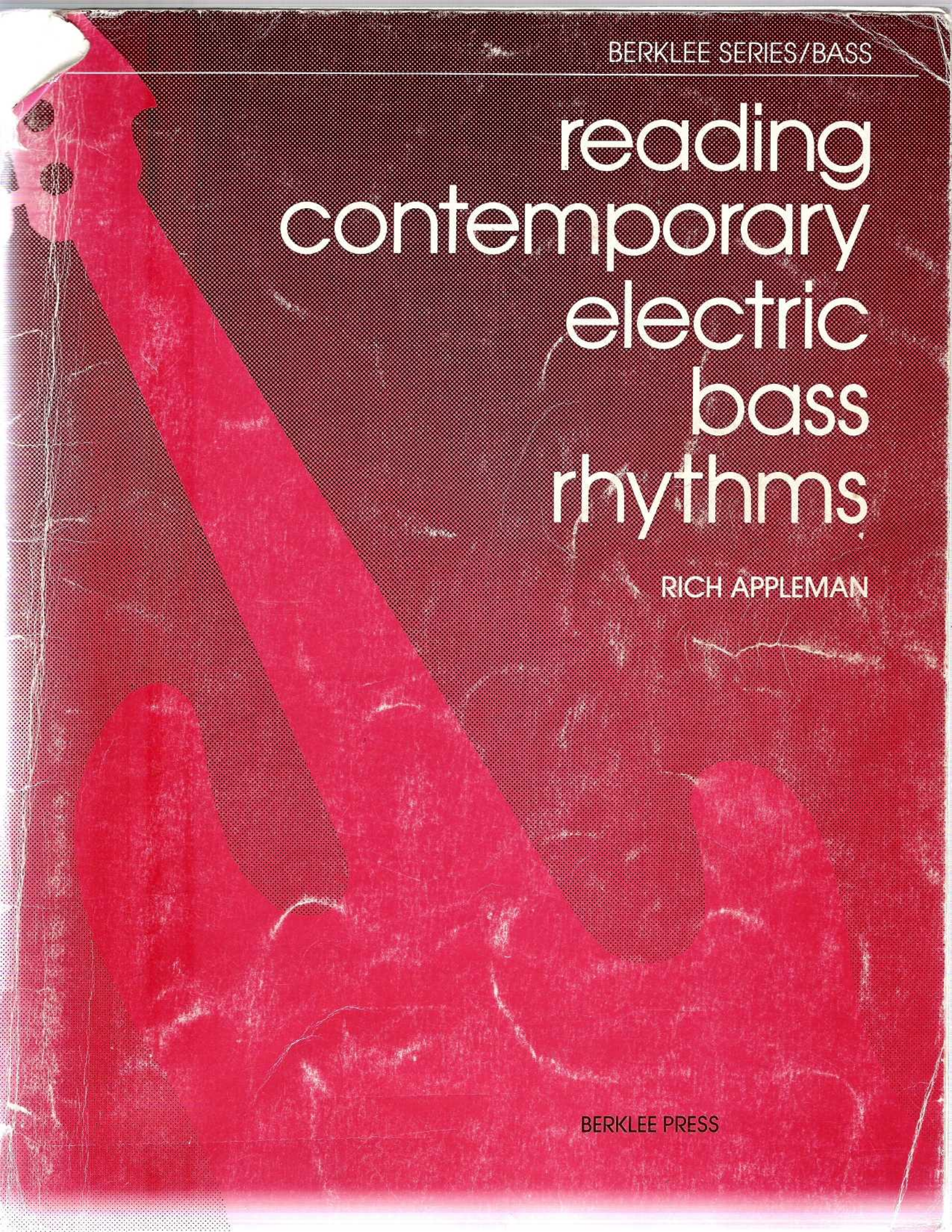
VISIT…

BERKLEE SERIES/BASS

reading contemporary electric bass rhythms

RICH APPLEMAN



BERKLEE PRESS

Reading Contemporary Electric Bass Rhythms

by

RICH APPLEMAN

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FOREWORD

Contemporary Electric Bass Rhythms mean many things to many people; fast repetitive funk vamps, long low sustained notes behind a singer, walking lines composed on the spot that shape a framework for a jazz soloist, and many more.

The rhythms and bass lines in this book are representative of what I've been playing in many different areas of performance — Theatre, Pop, Recording, Jazz, Dance, Funk, Fusion, Latin, Disco . . .

The Contemporary bassist must play, read, and compose in a variety of different styles.

Some general rules to think about:

- Don't get fooled by the apparent simplicity of basic foundation lines and rhythms. It takes good musicianship to play them right!
- Develop a vocabulary of basic rhythms and styles and use it as a basis on which to constantly expand. Be as versatile and flexible as possible.
- Be solid and supportive; Develop a good time feel and good sound before trying to be an out front lead-type player.

Some hints for practicing these exercises:

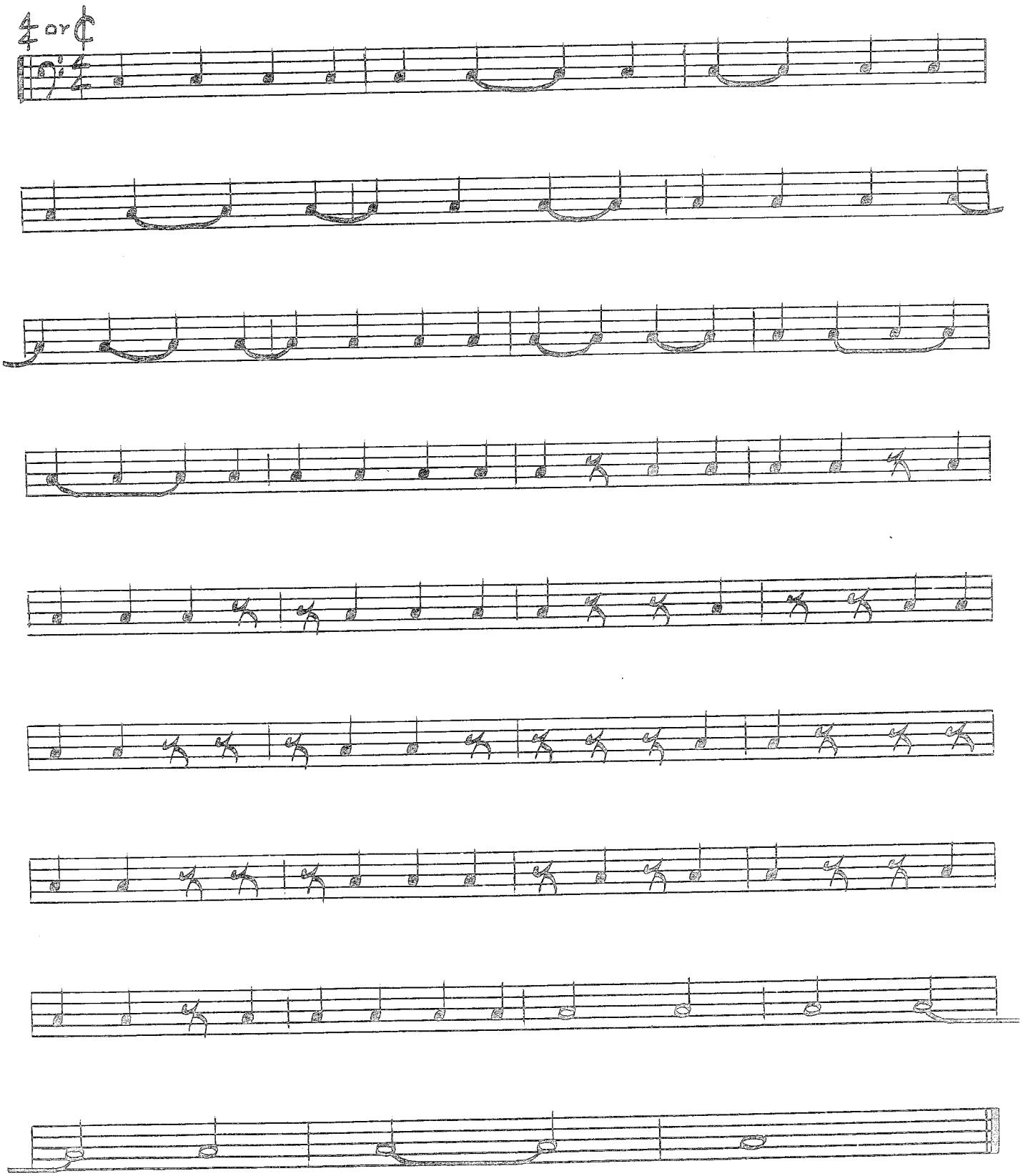
- Always play slowly and perfectly when learning something new.
- Play at different tempos with different phrasing.
- Try playing the lines and rhythms in all keys. Memorize the lines you especially like and expand upon them.
- Chord symbols have been omitted to make certain that the book is used to develop *reading* skills.
- Don't just play notes . . . make music!

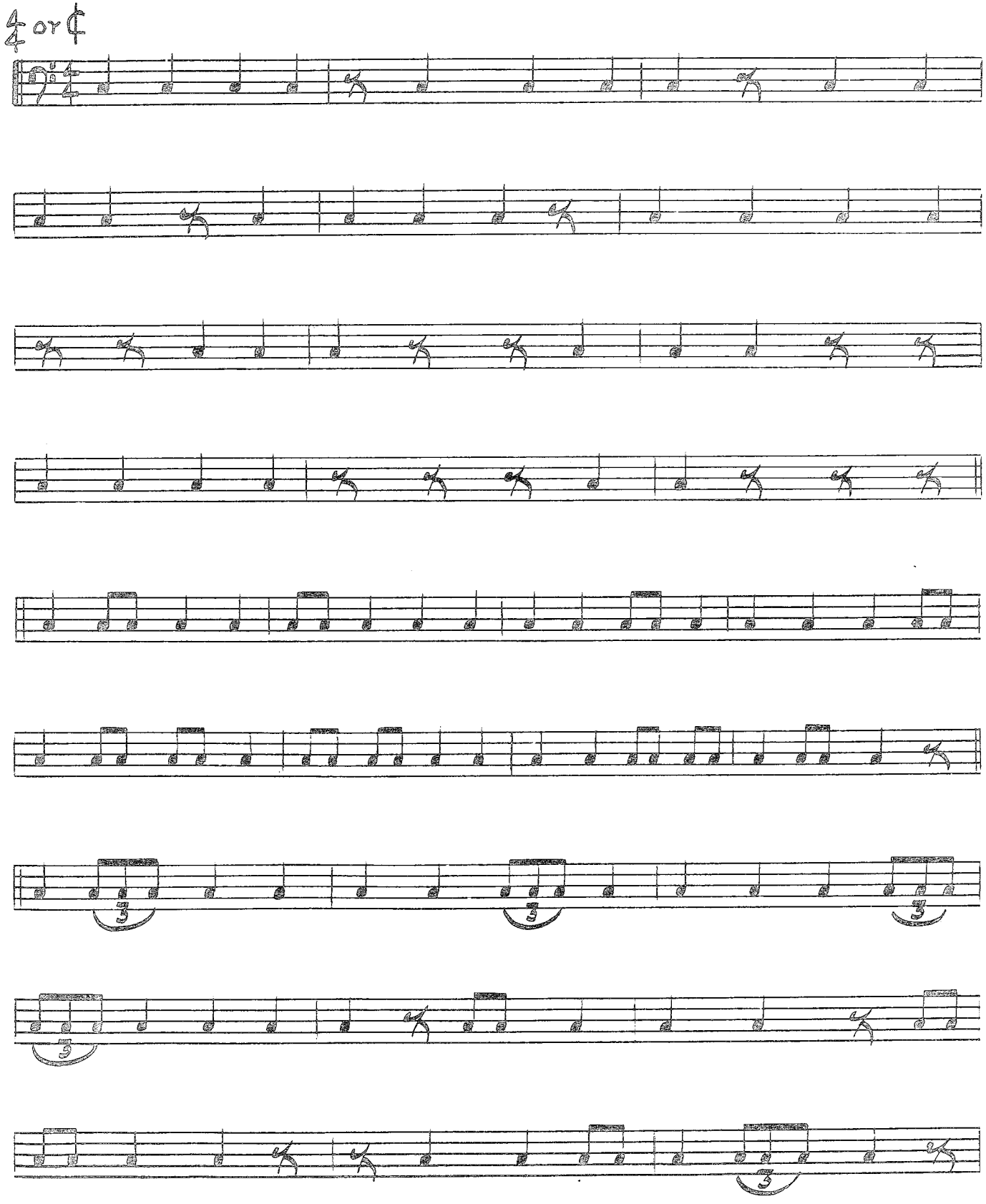
Good Luck,

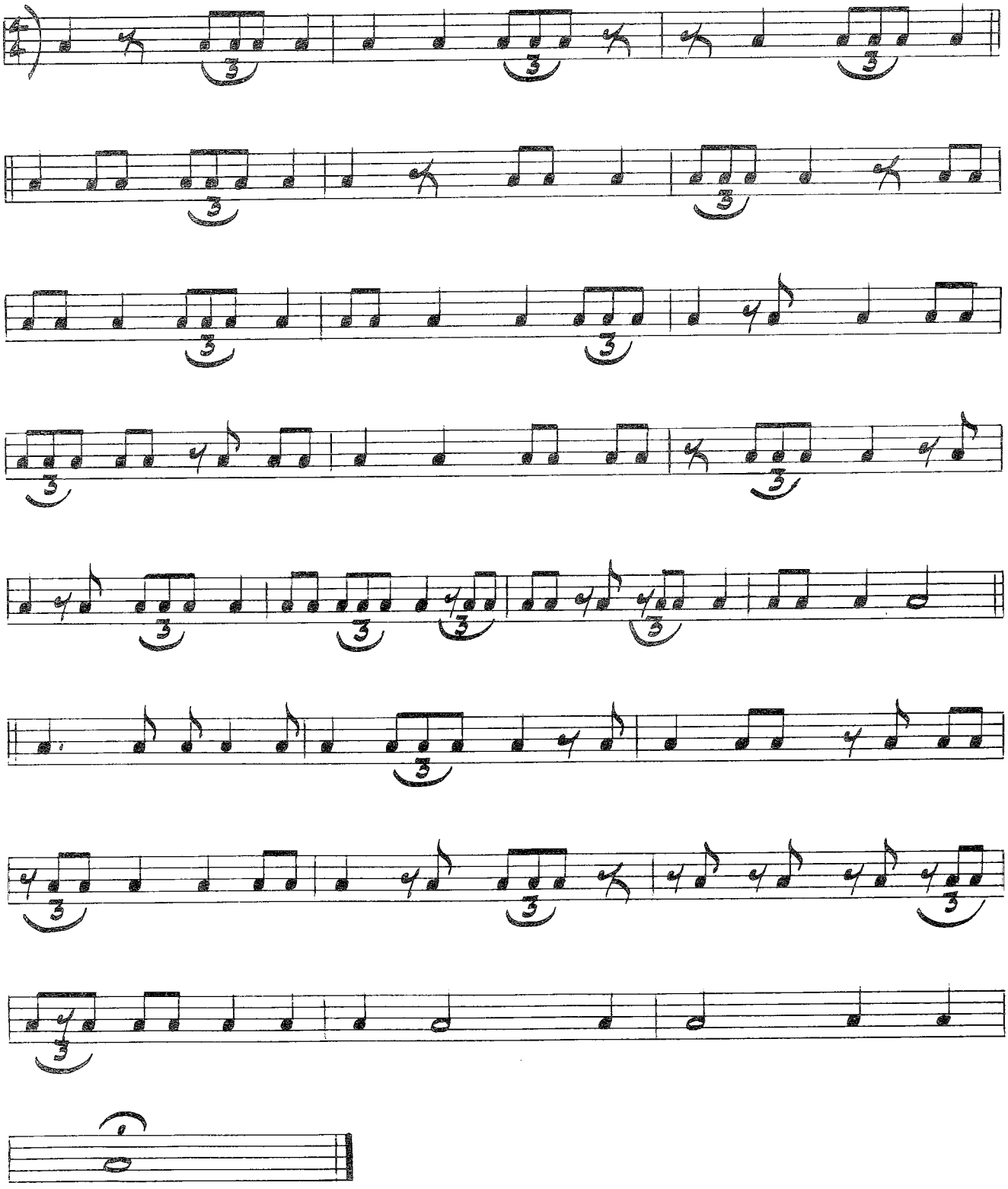
Richard E. Appleman
Chairman, Bass Department
BERKLEE COLLEGE OF MUSIC

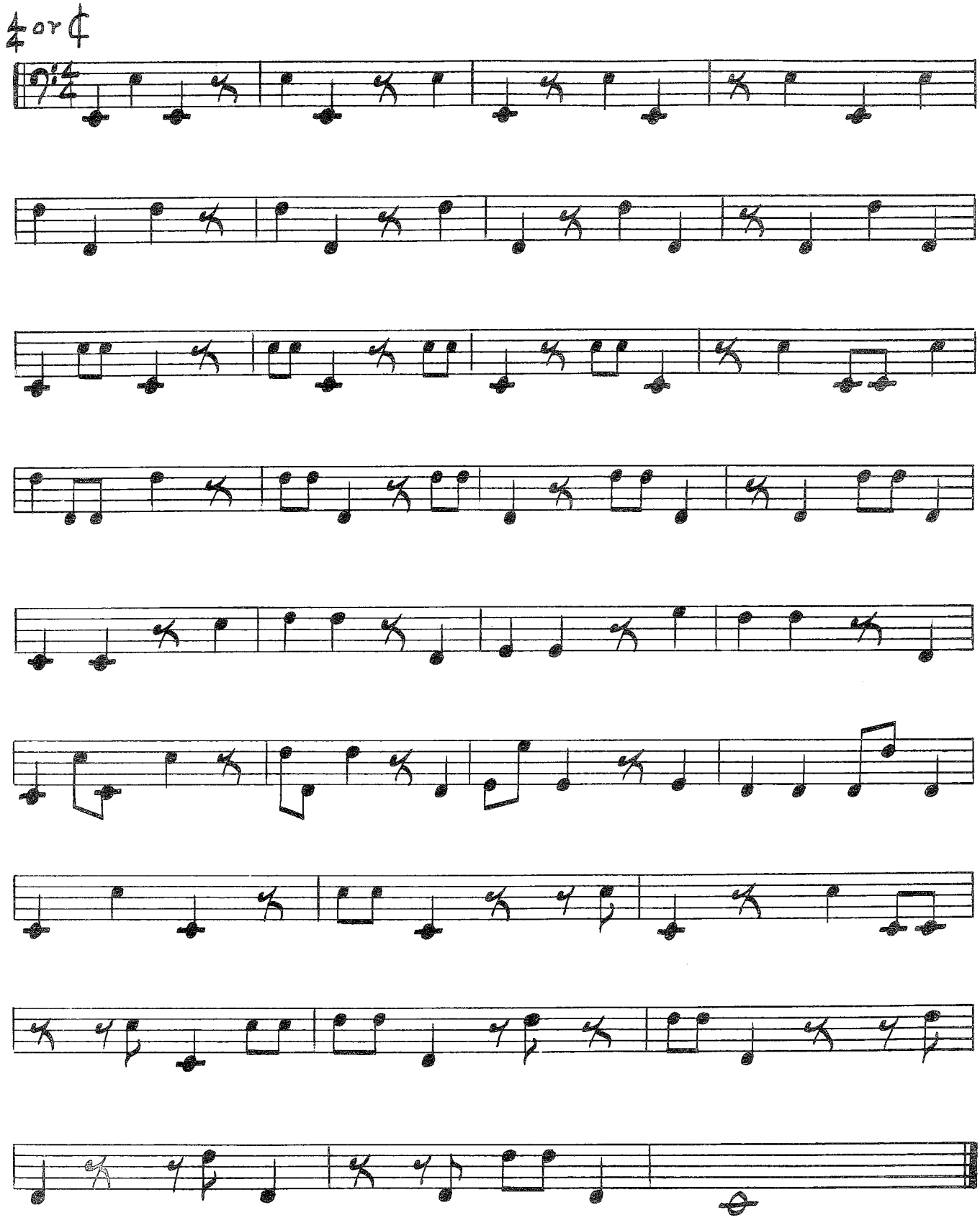
SECTION I

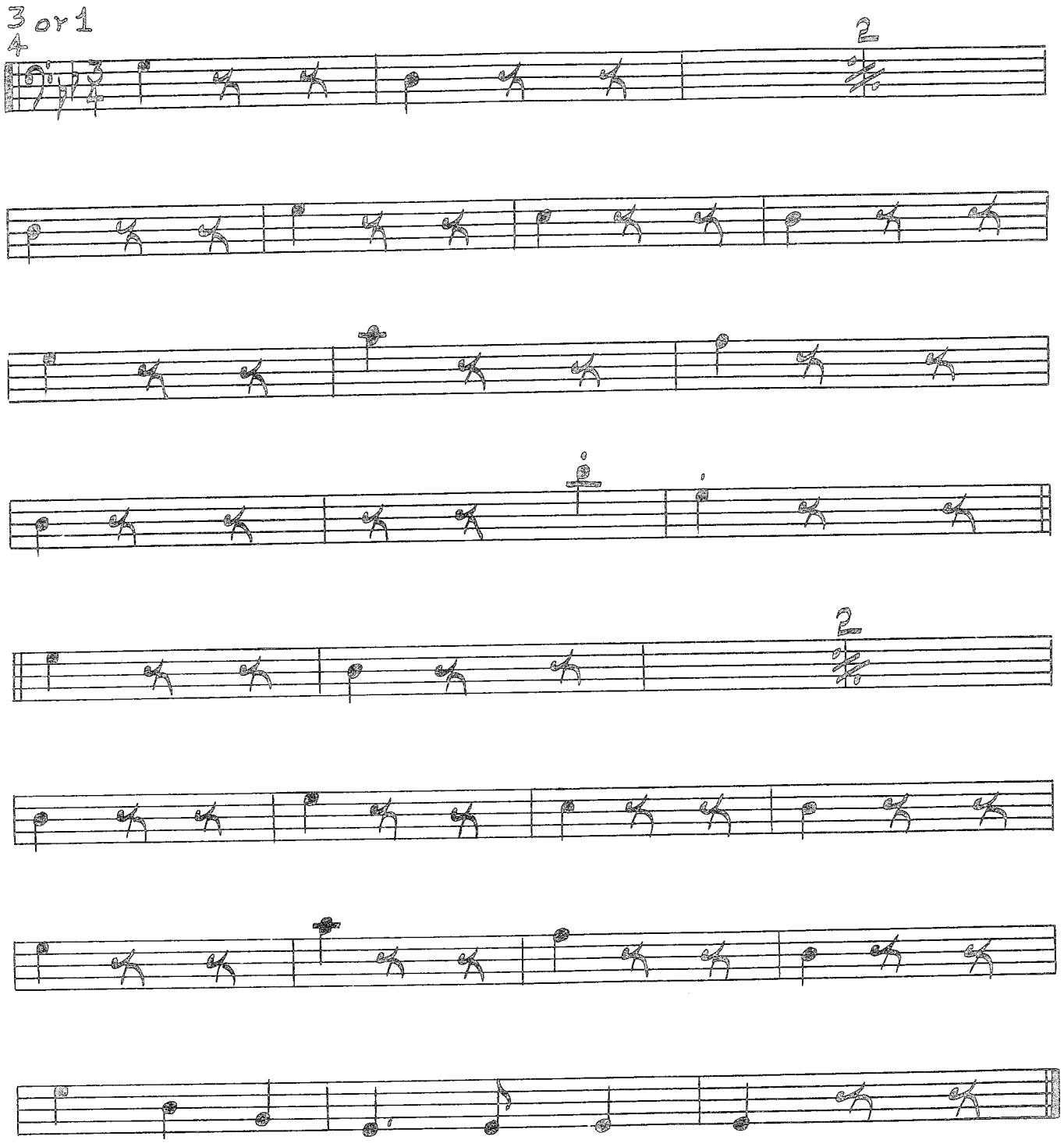
Regular Bass Line Rhythms. "Walking Bass", "Two Feel".

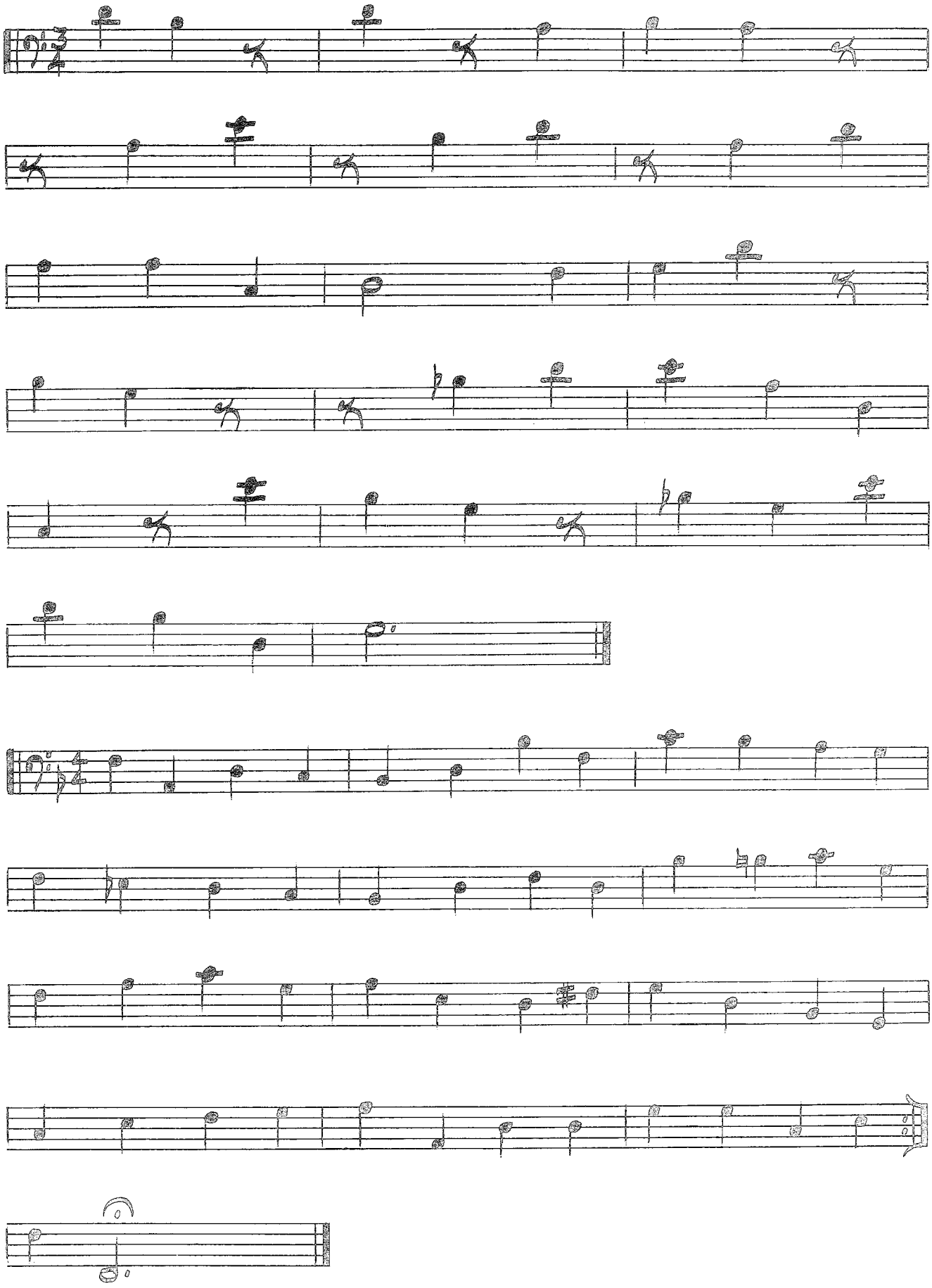


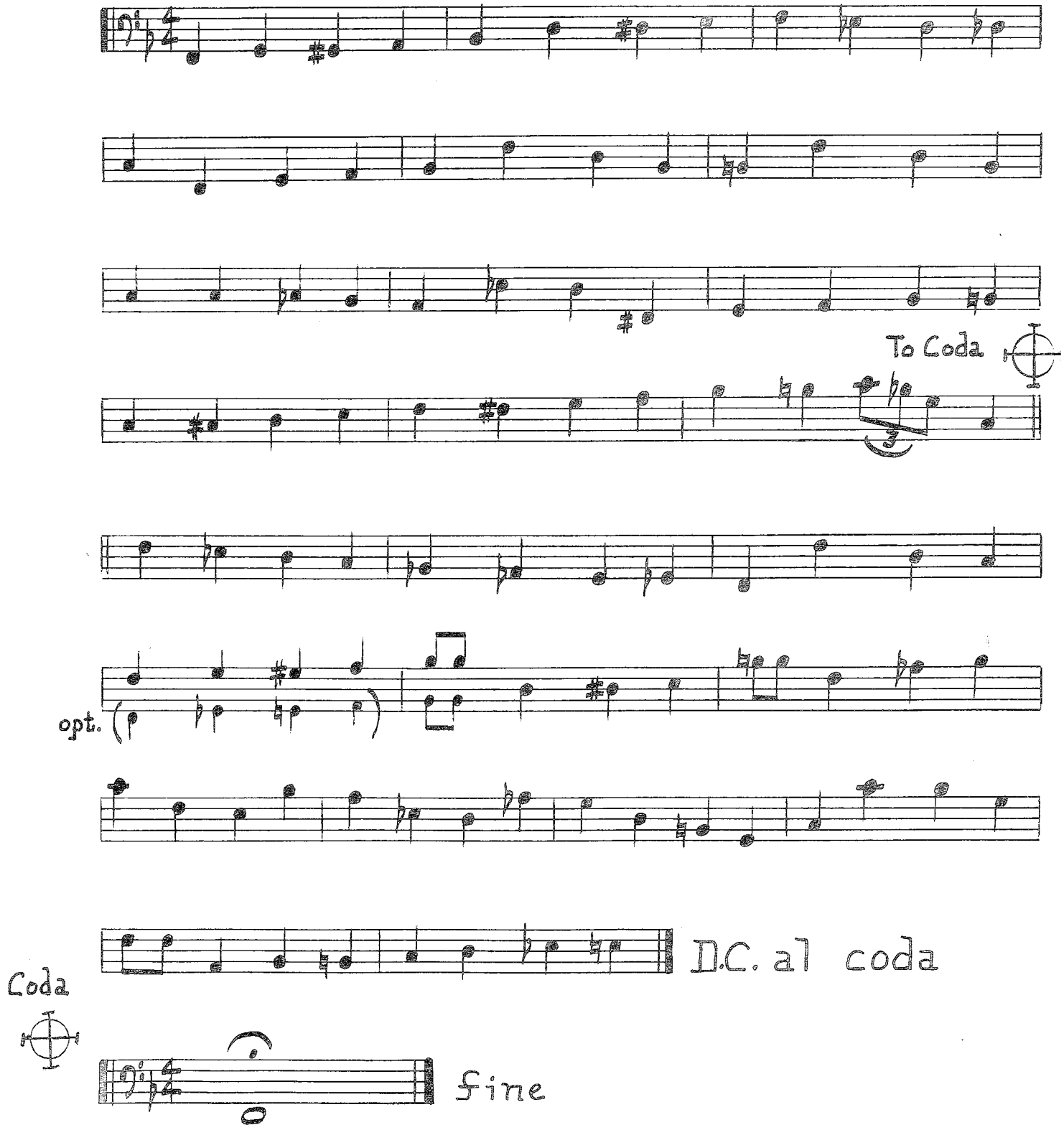

4/4 or ¢

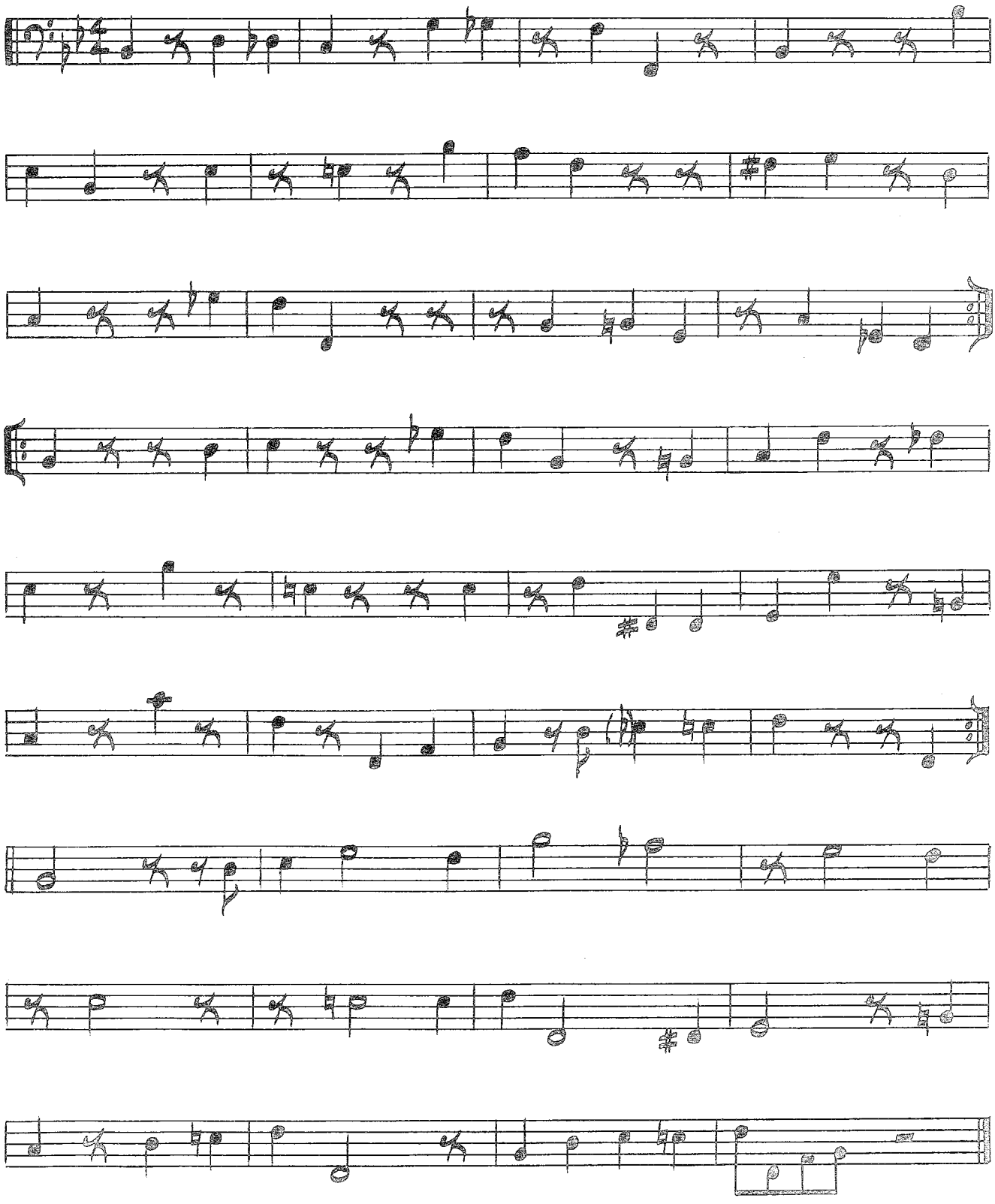


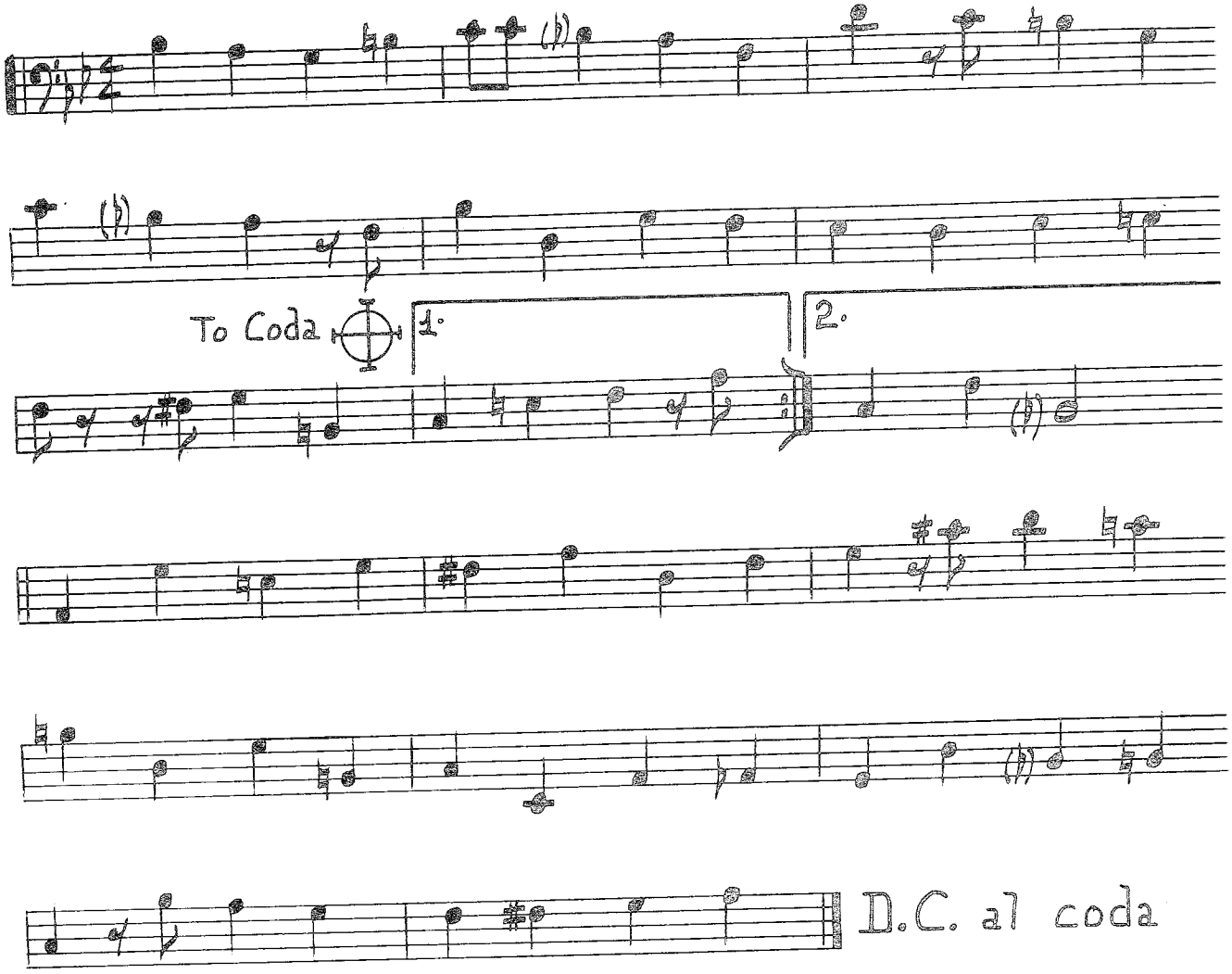

4 or ¢


3 or 1
4
2
2




To Coda
opt.
D.C. al coda
Coda
Fine





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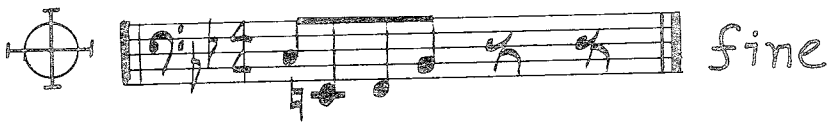
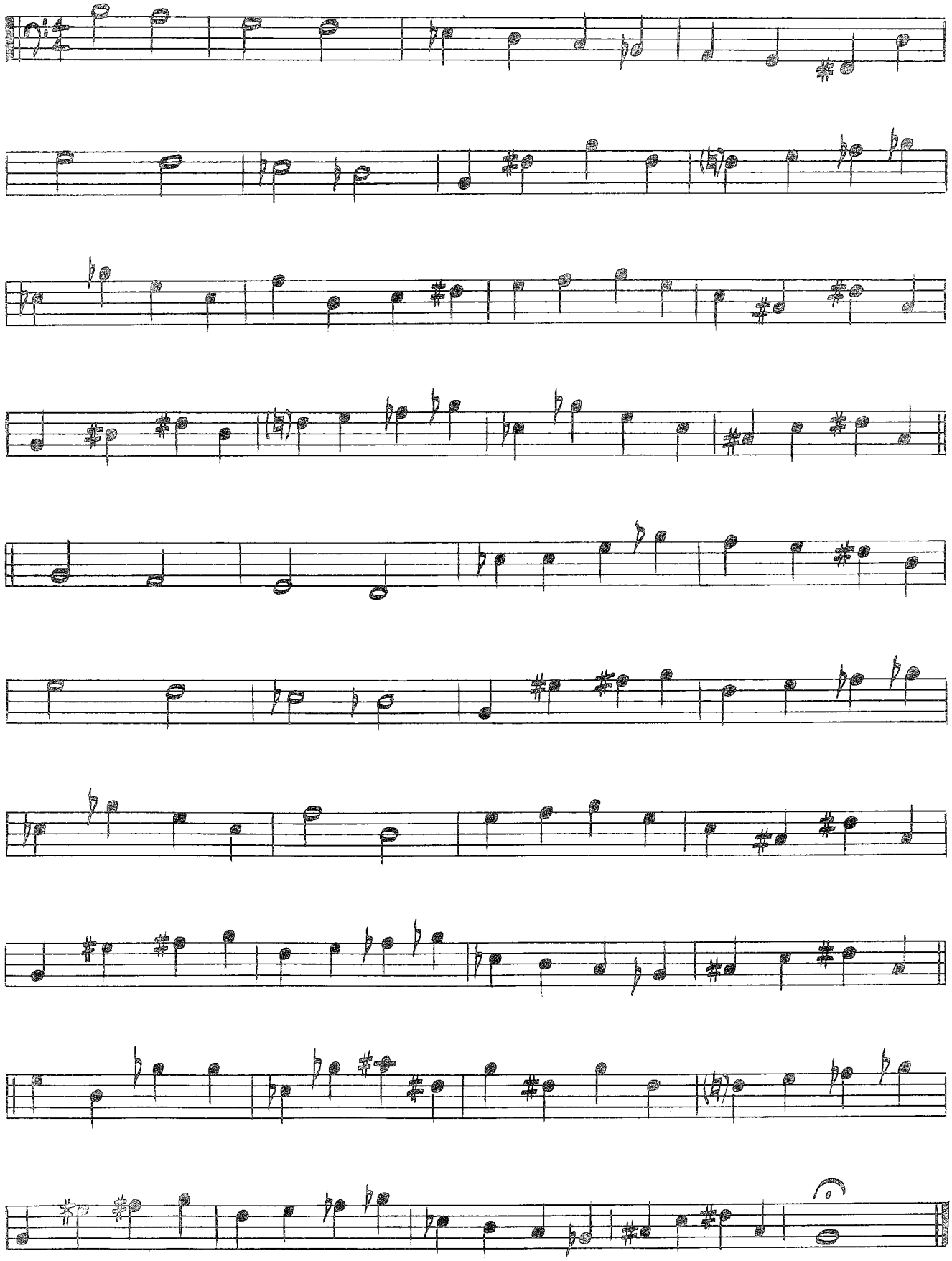
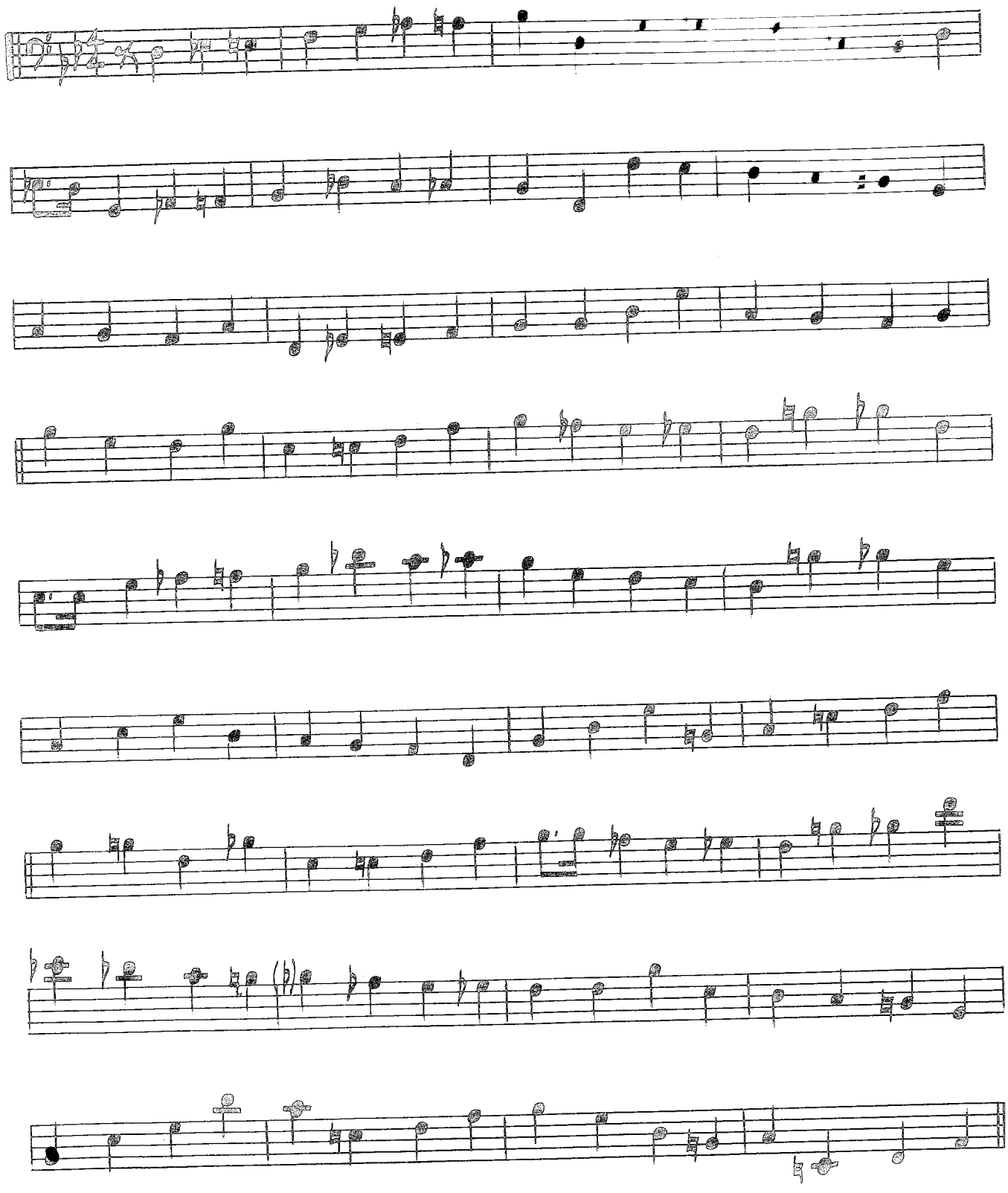
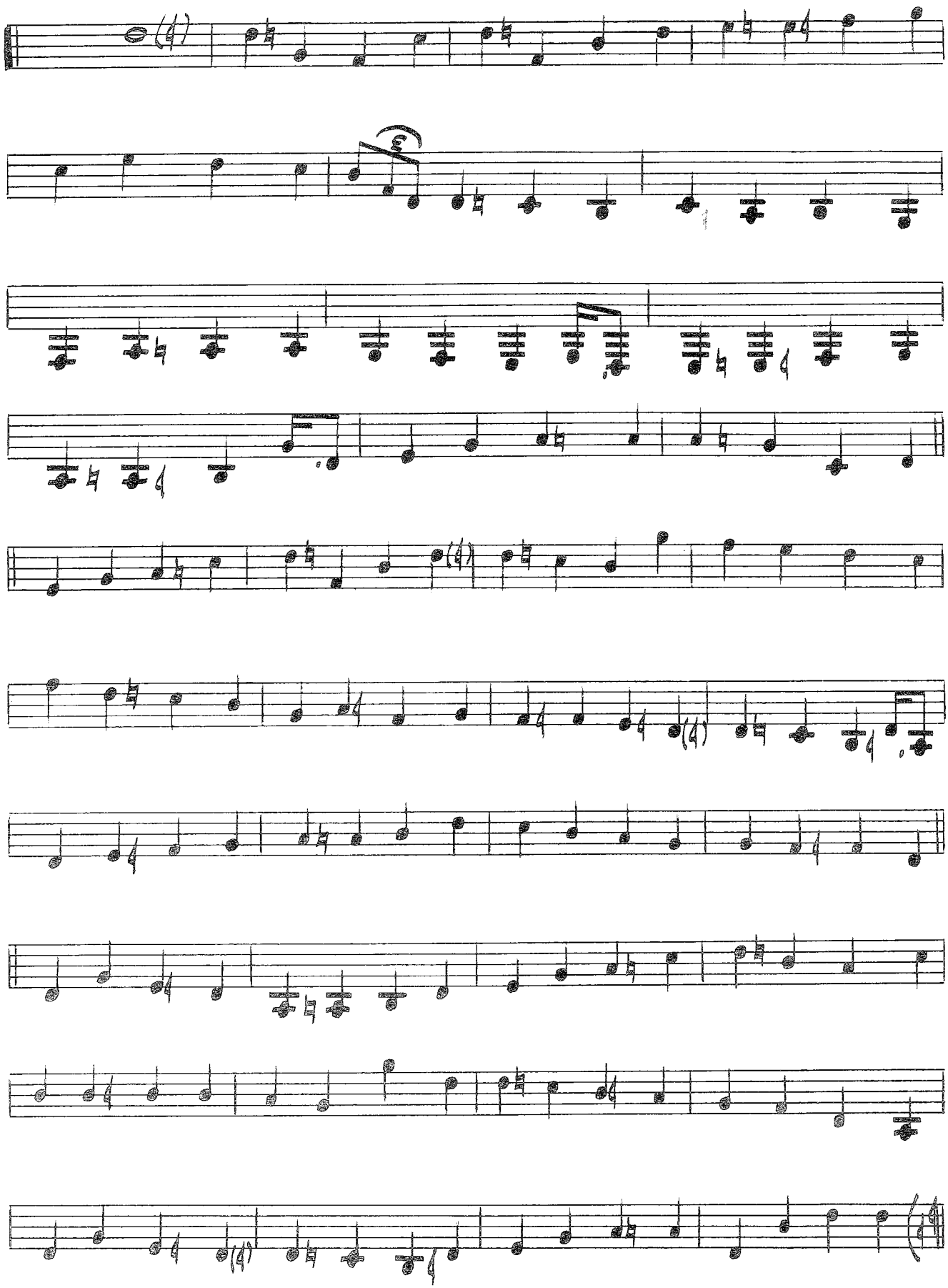
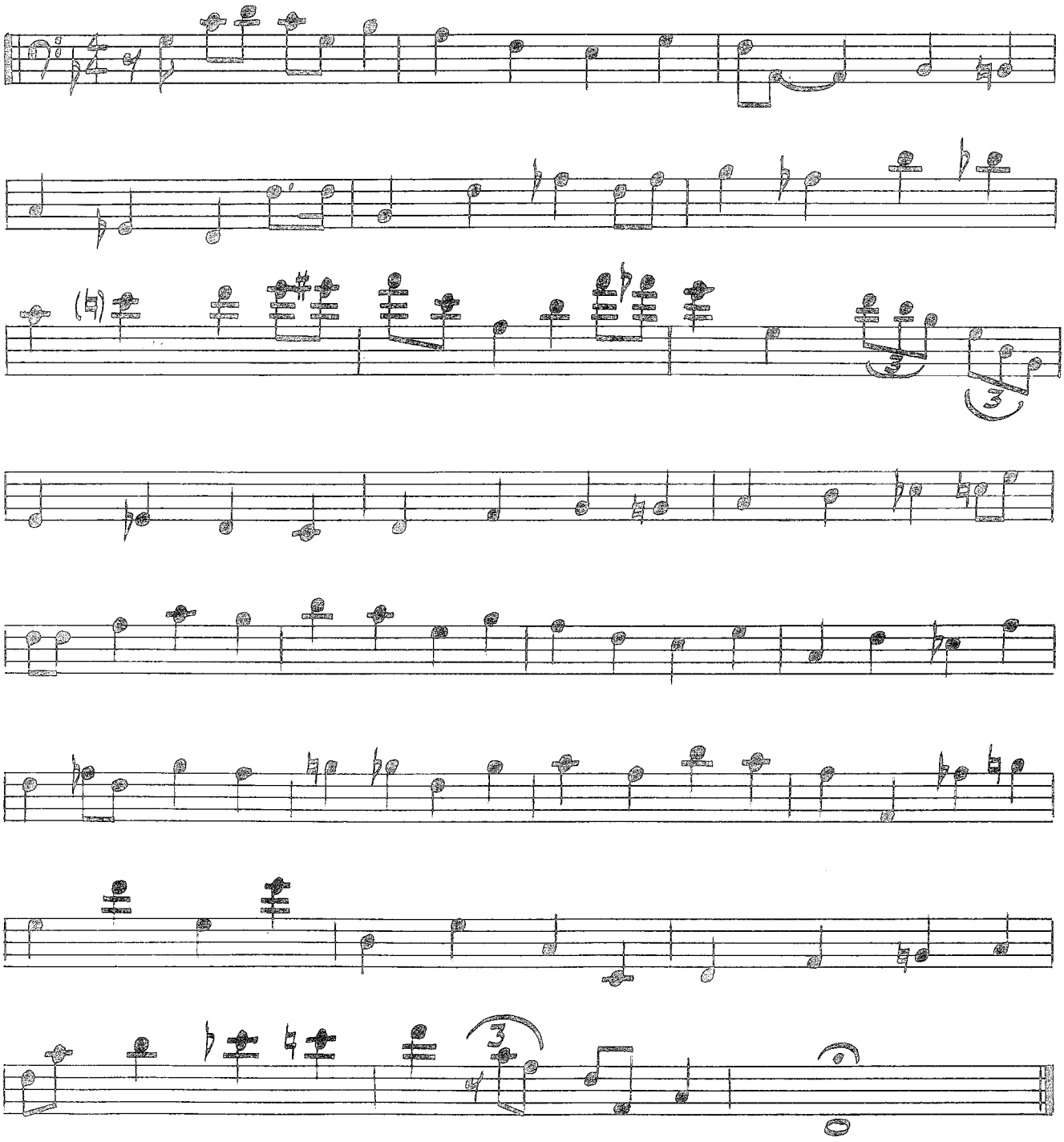
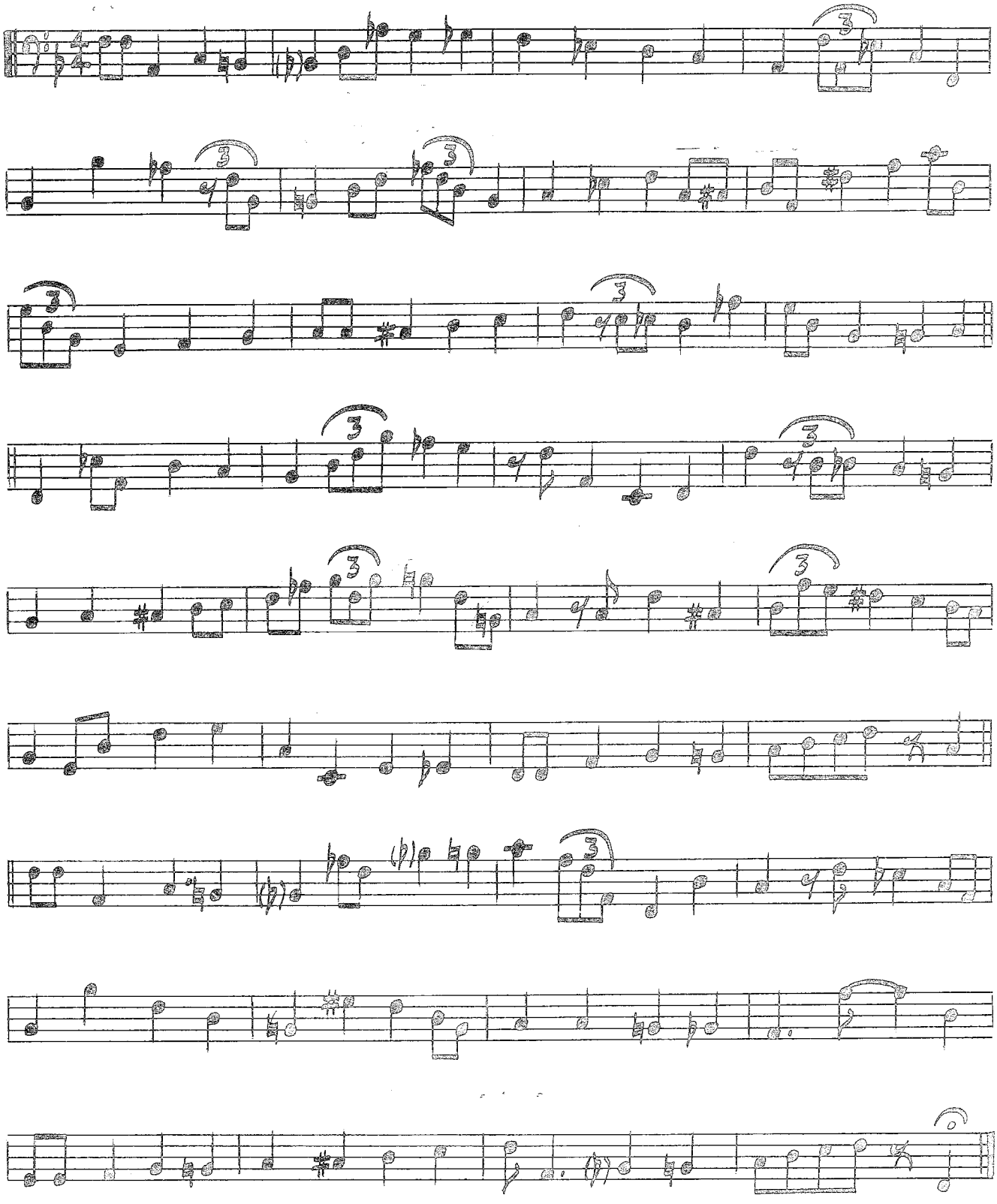




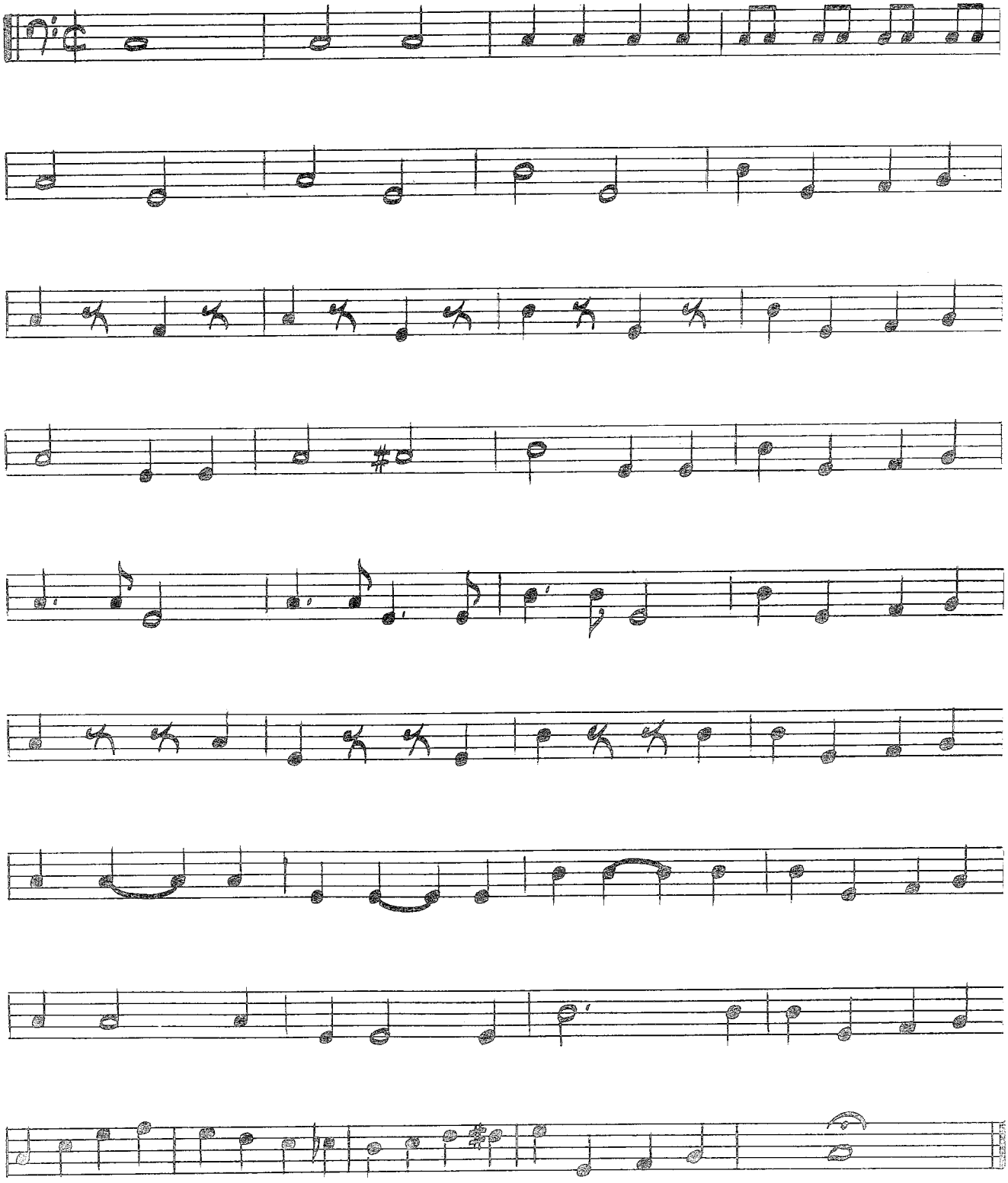


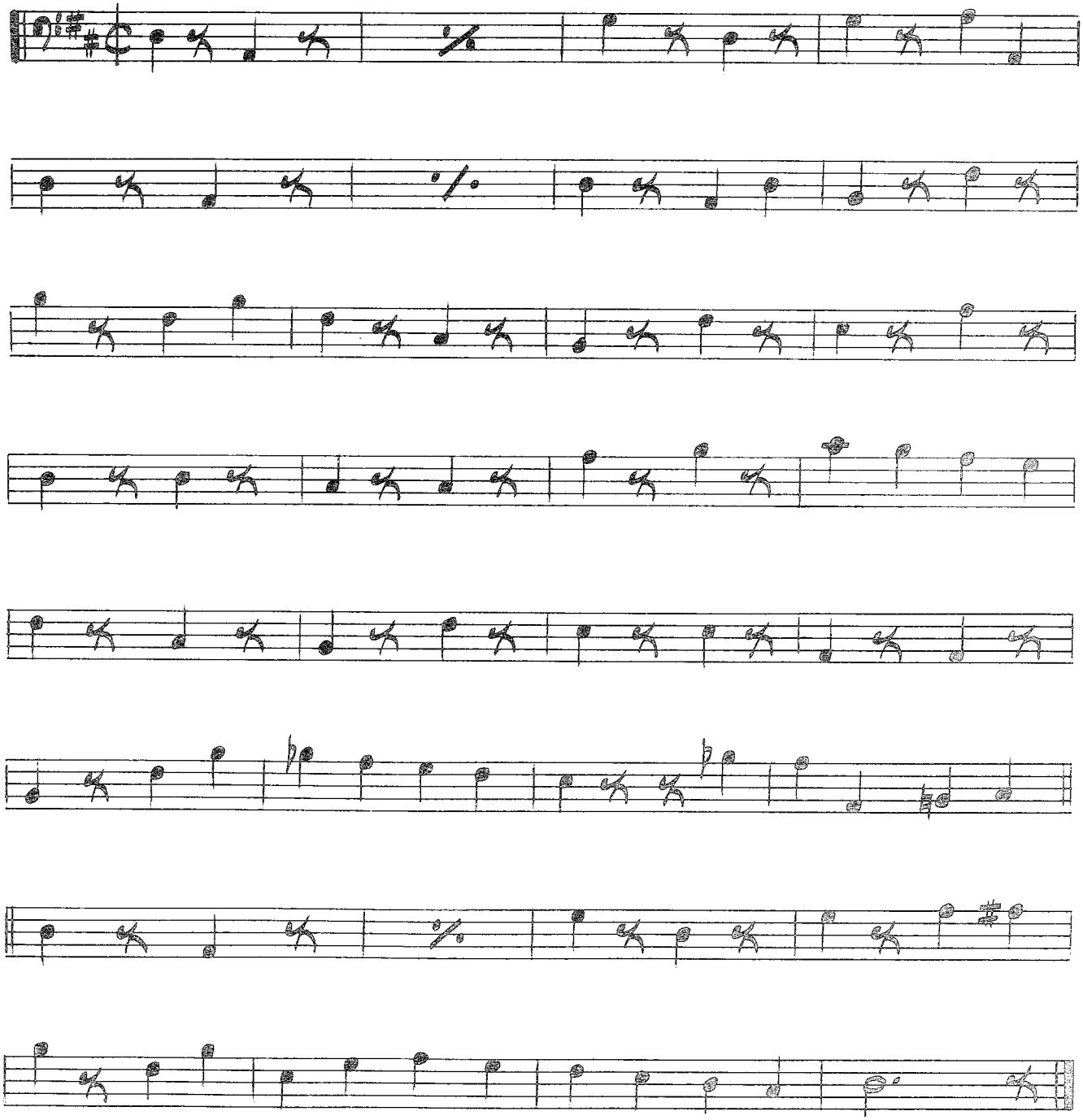


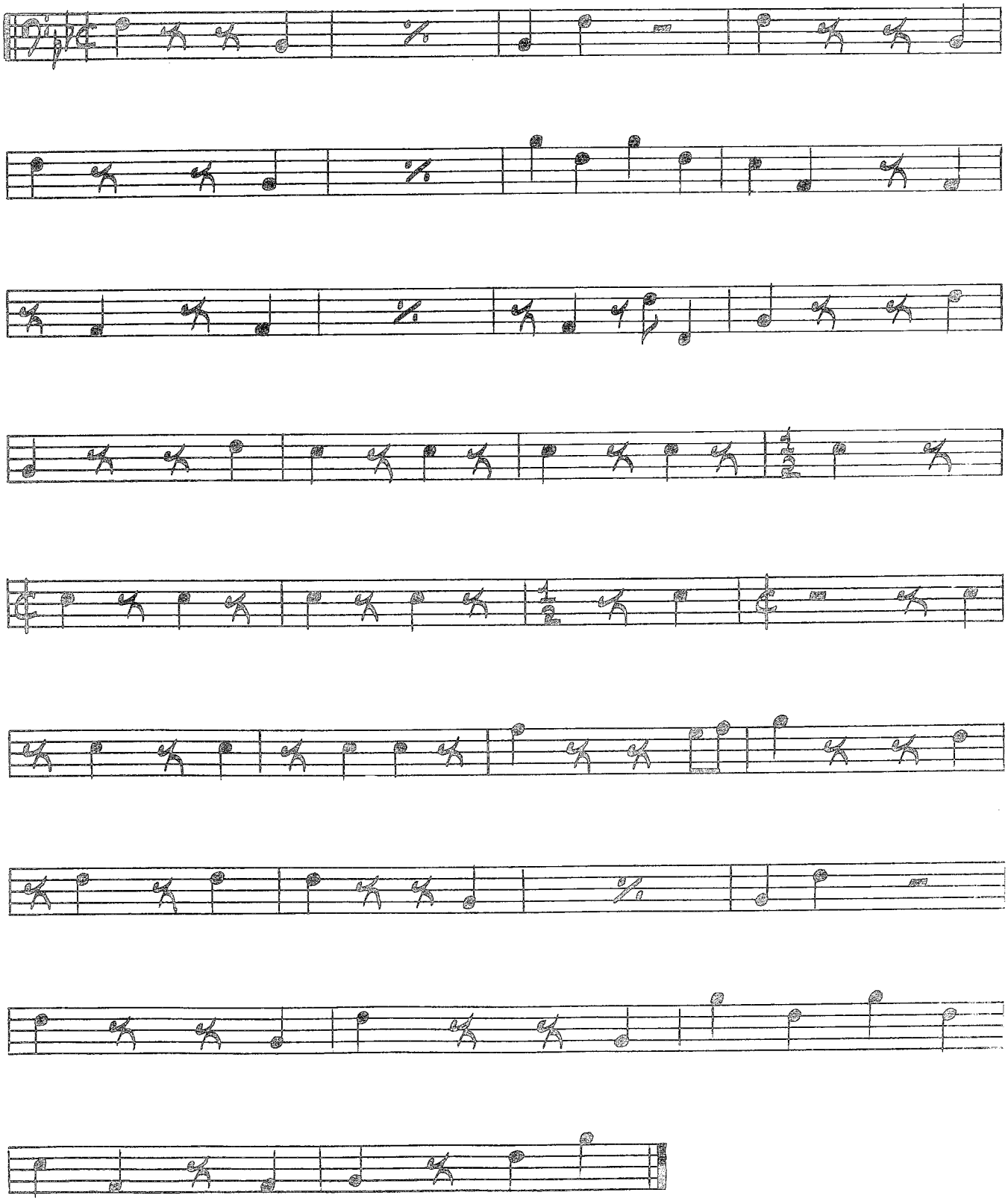


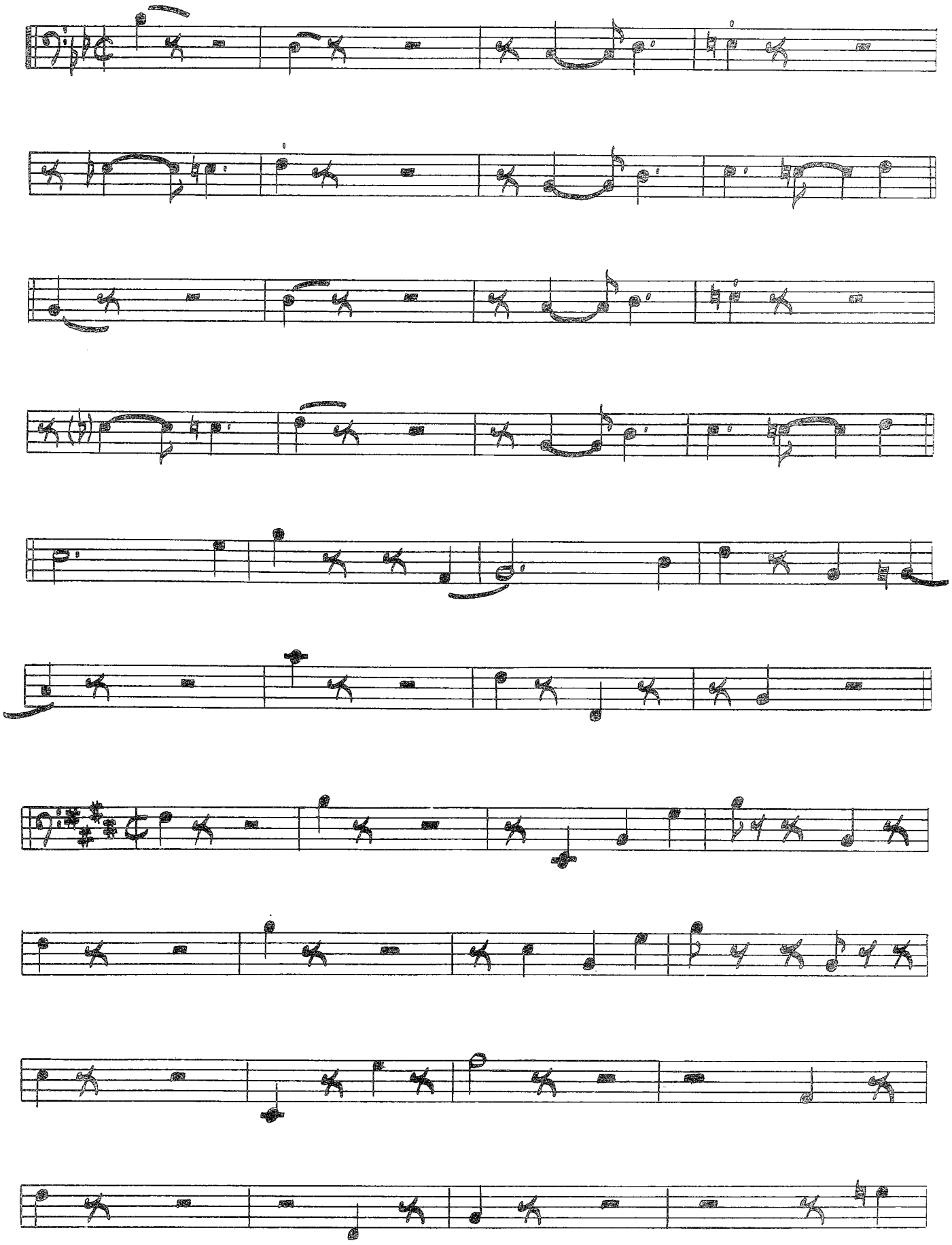


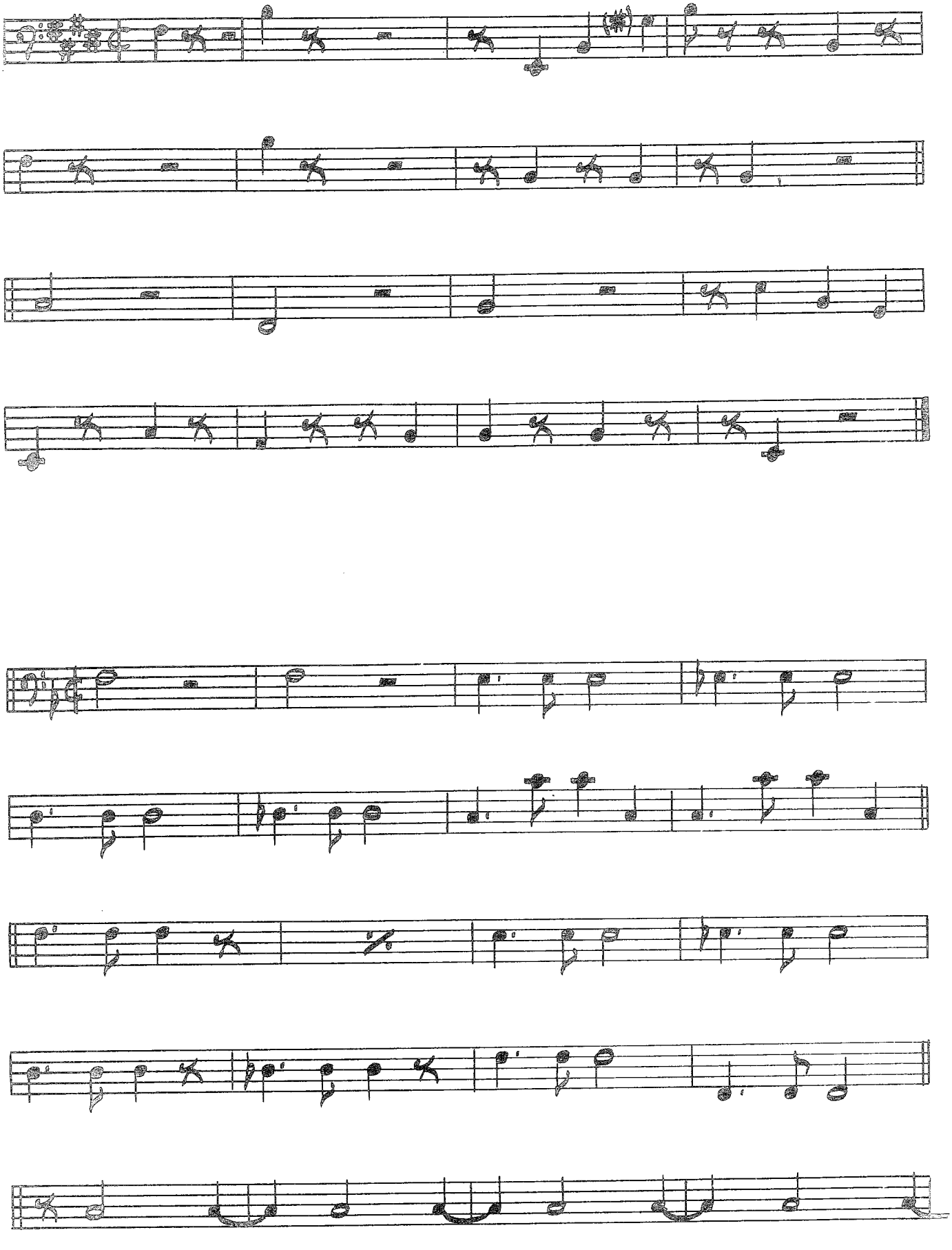
"2"

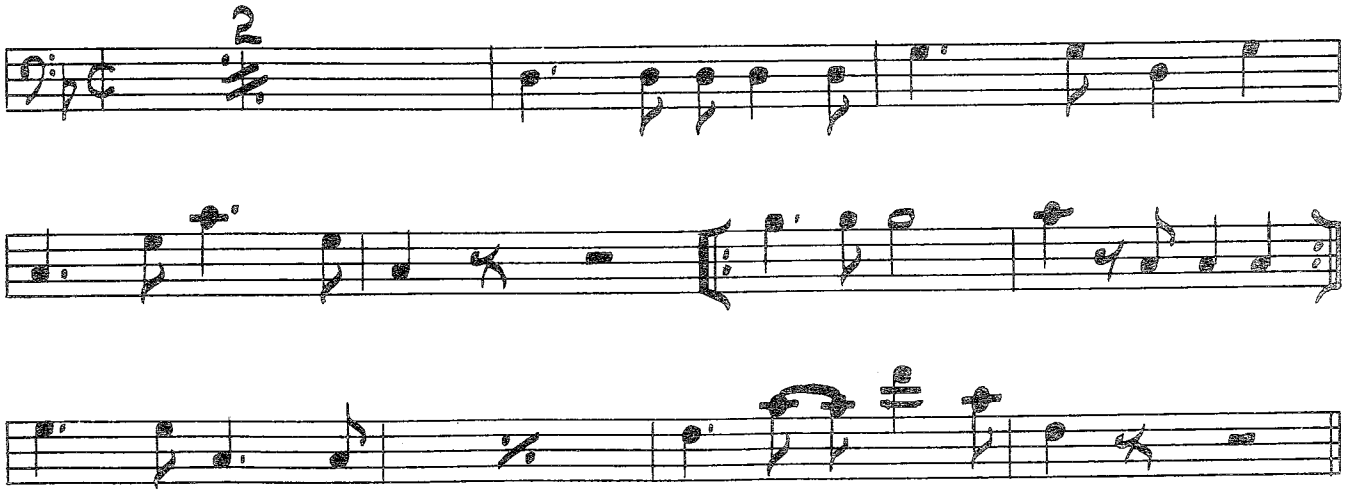




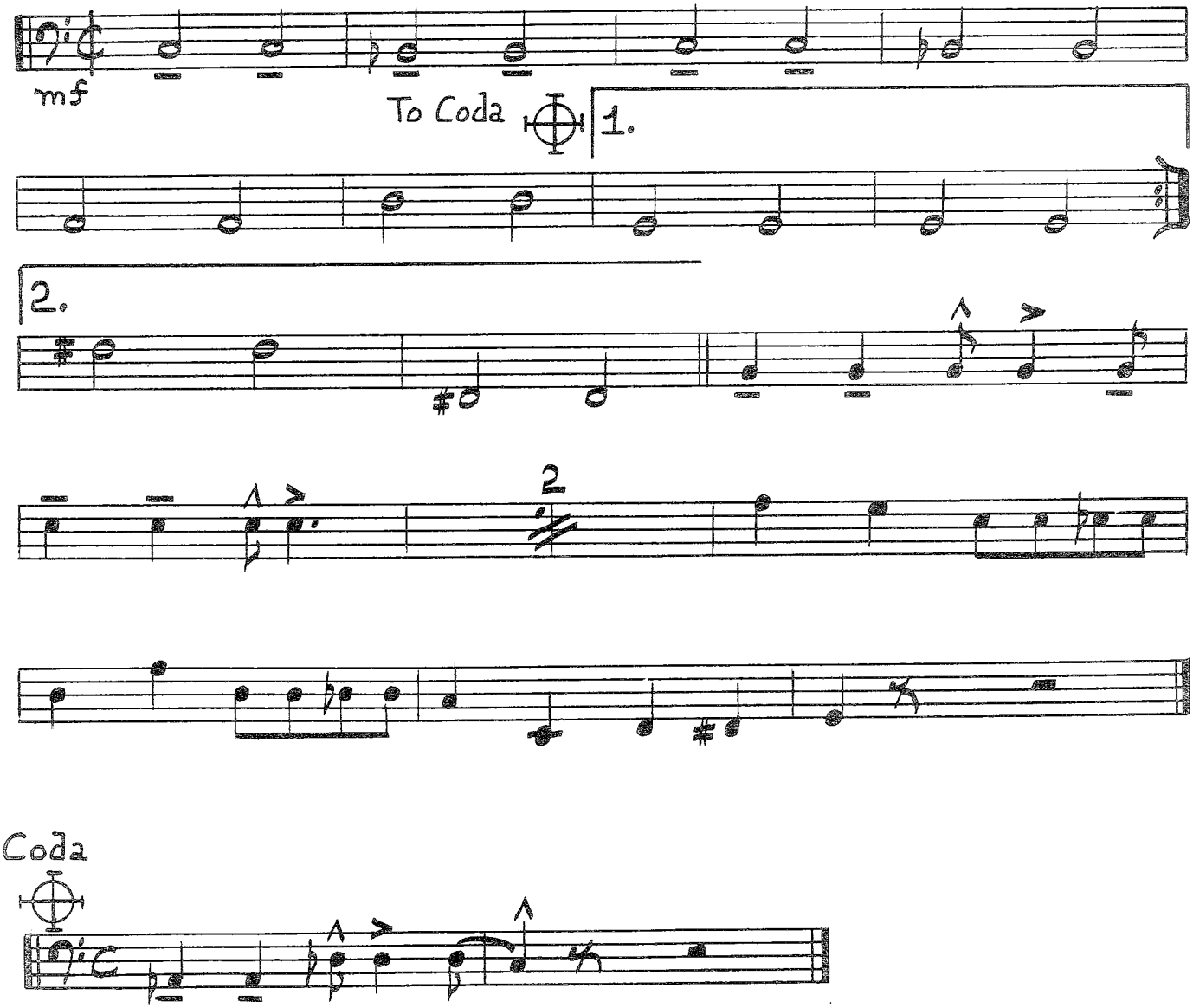




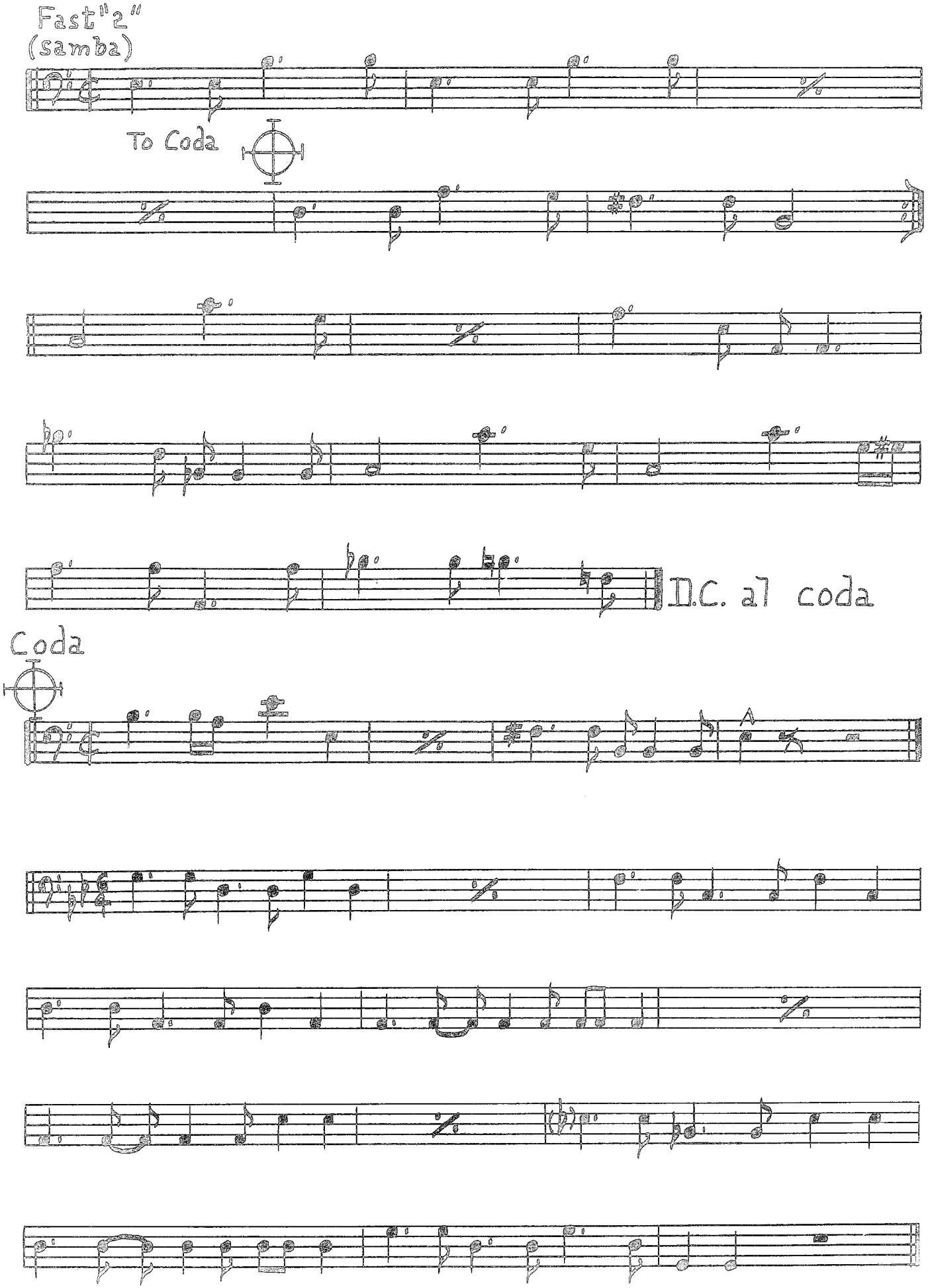




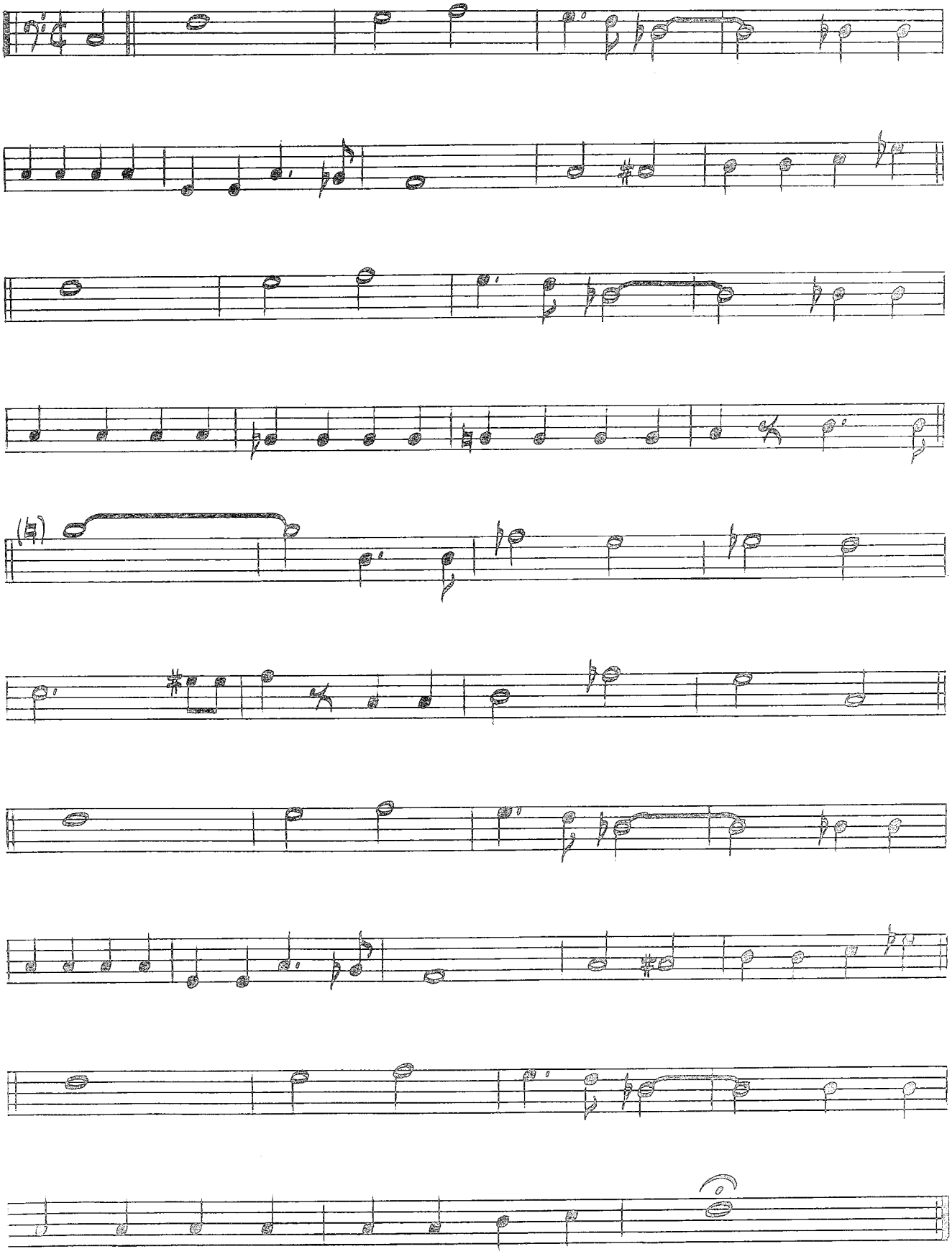
Med. "2" feel



Coda

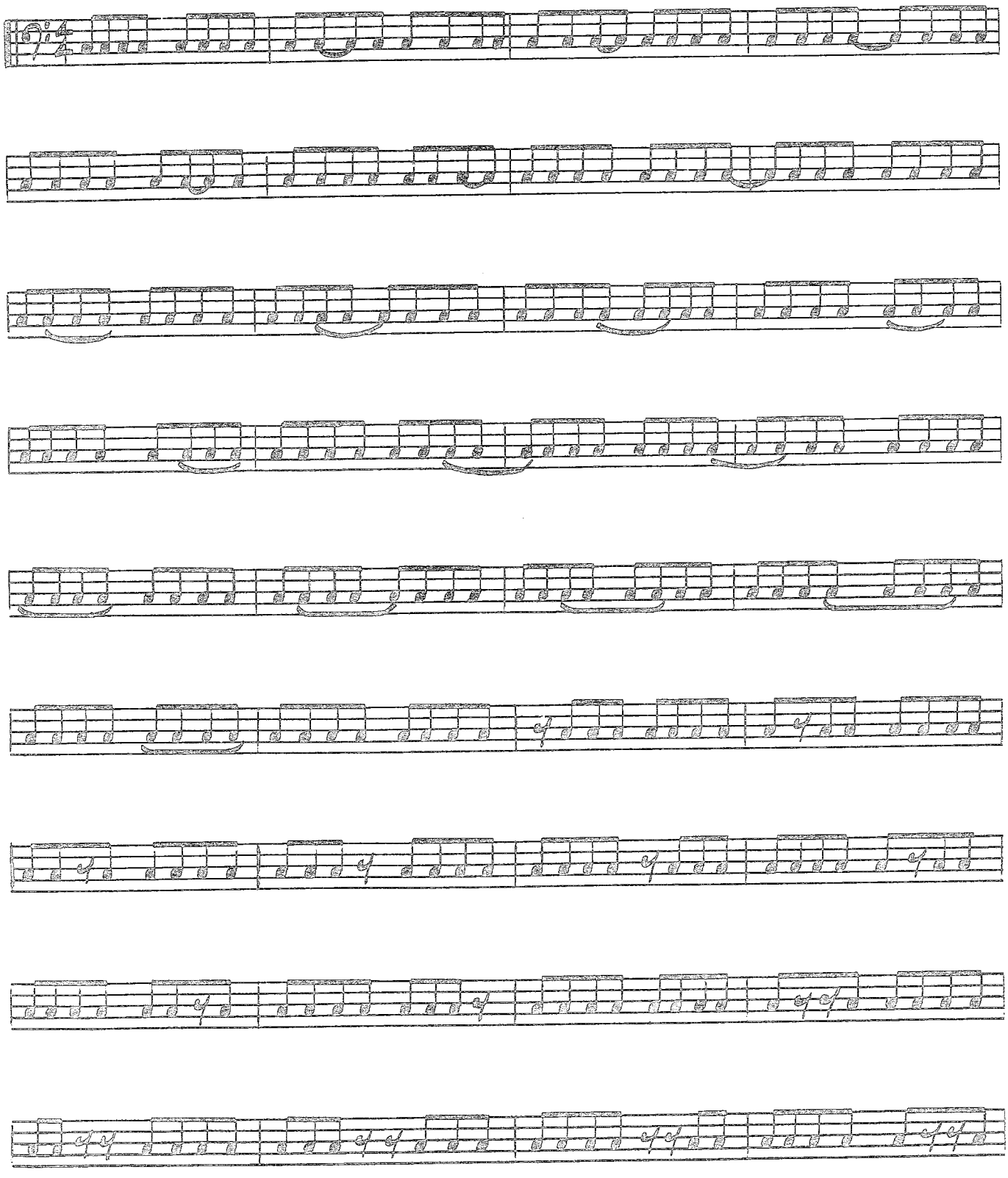

Fast "2"
(samba)
To Coda
D.C. al coda
Coda
A

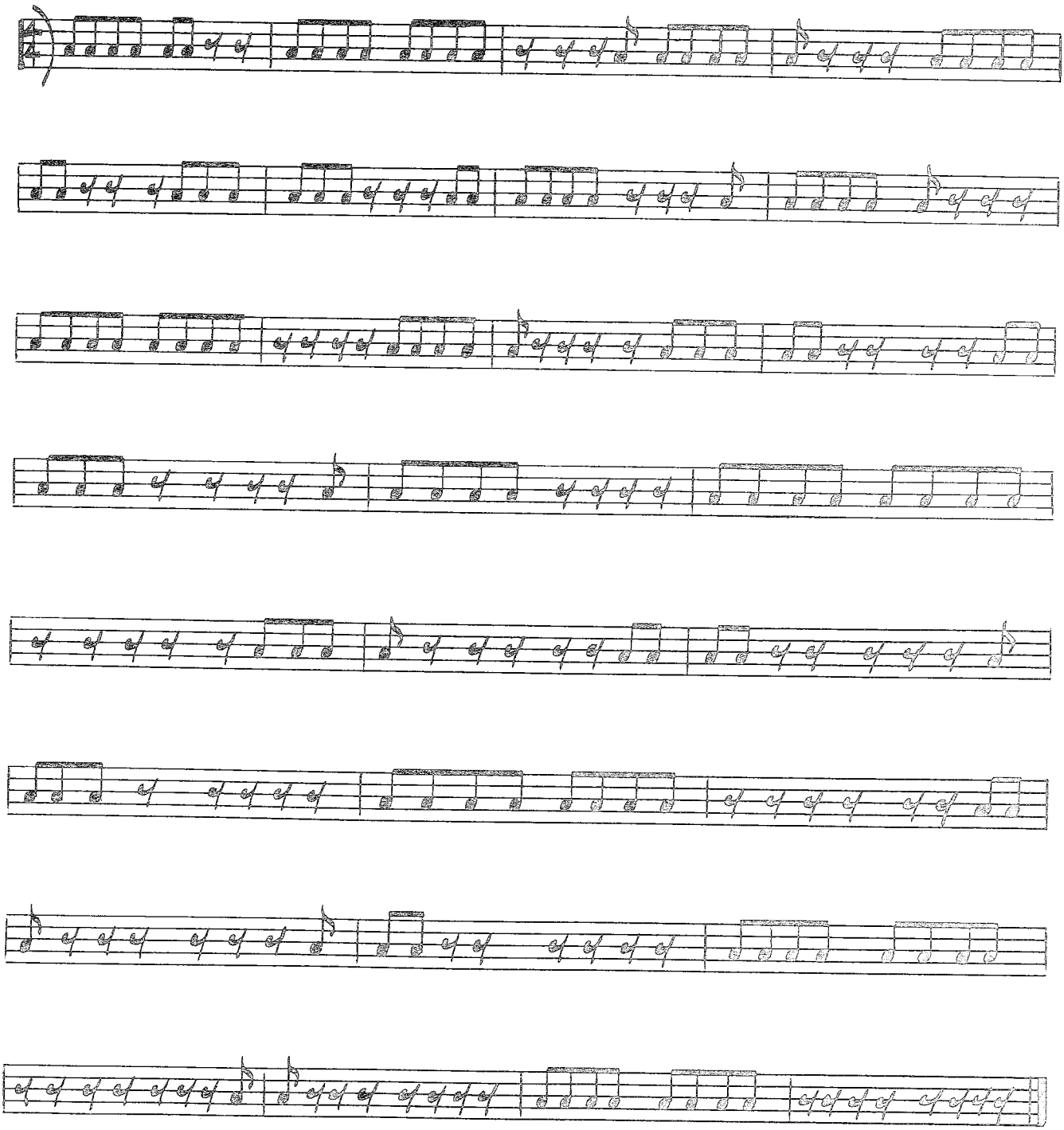
March

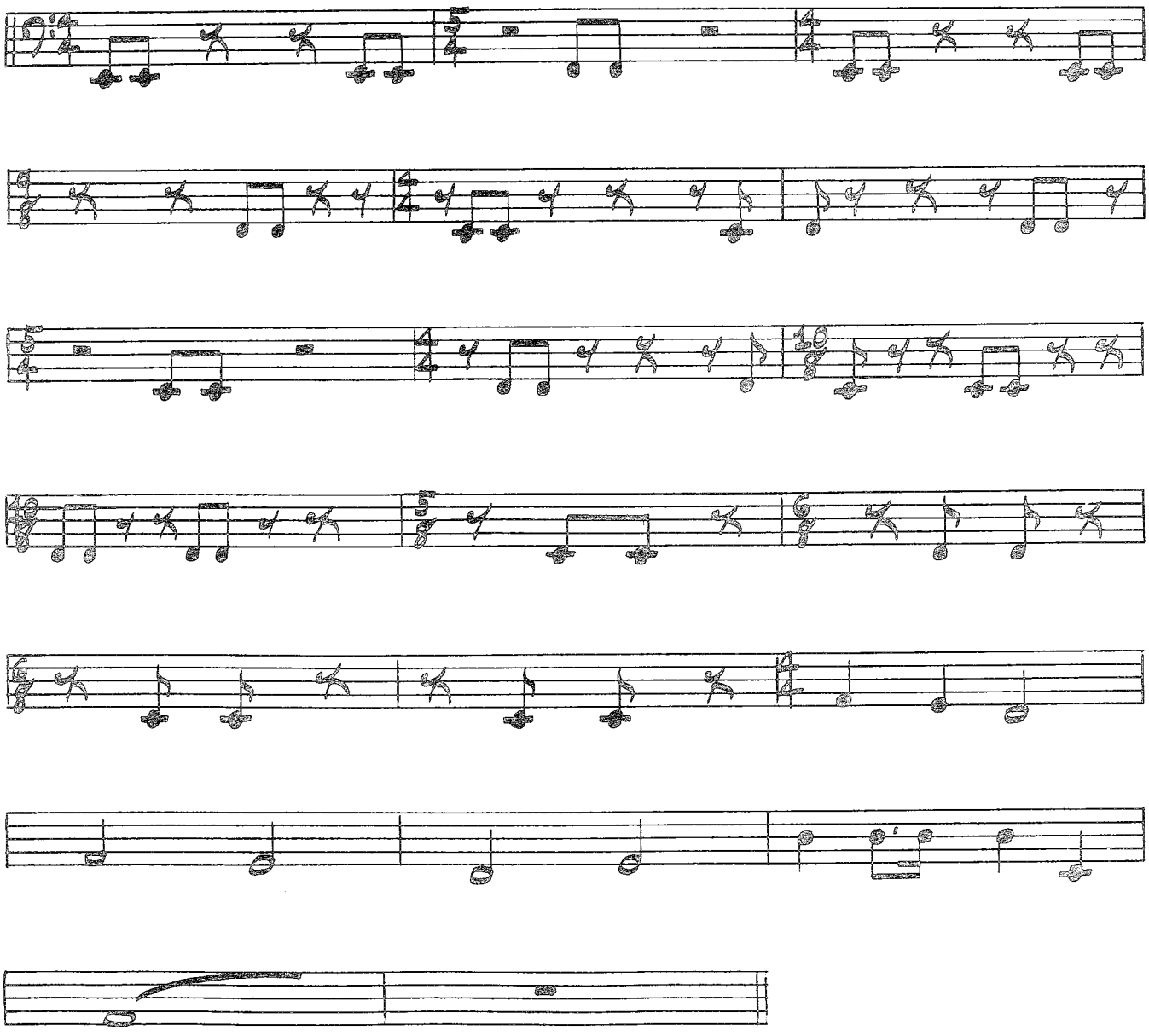


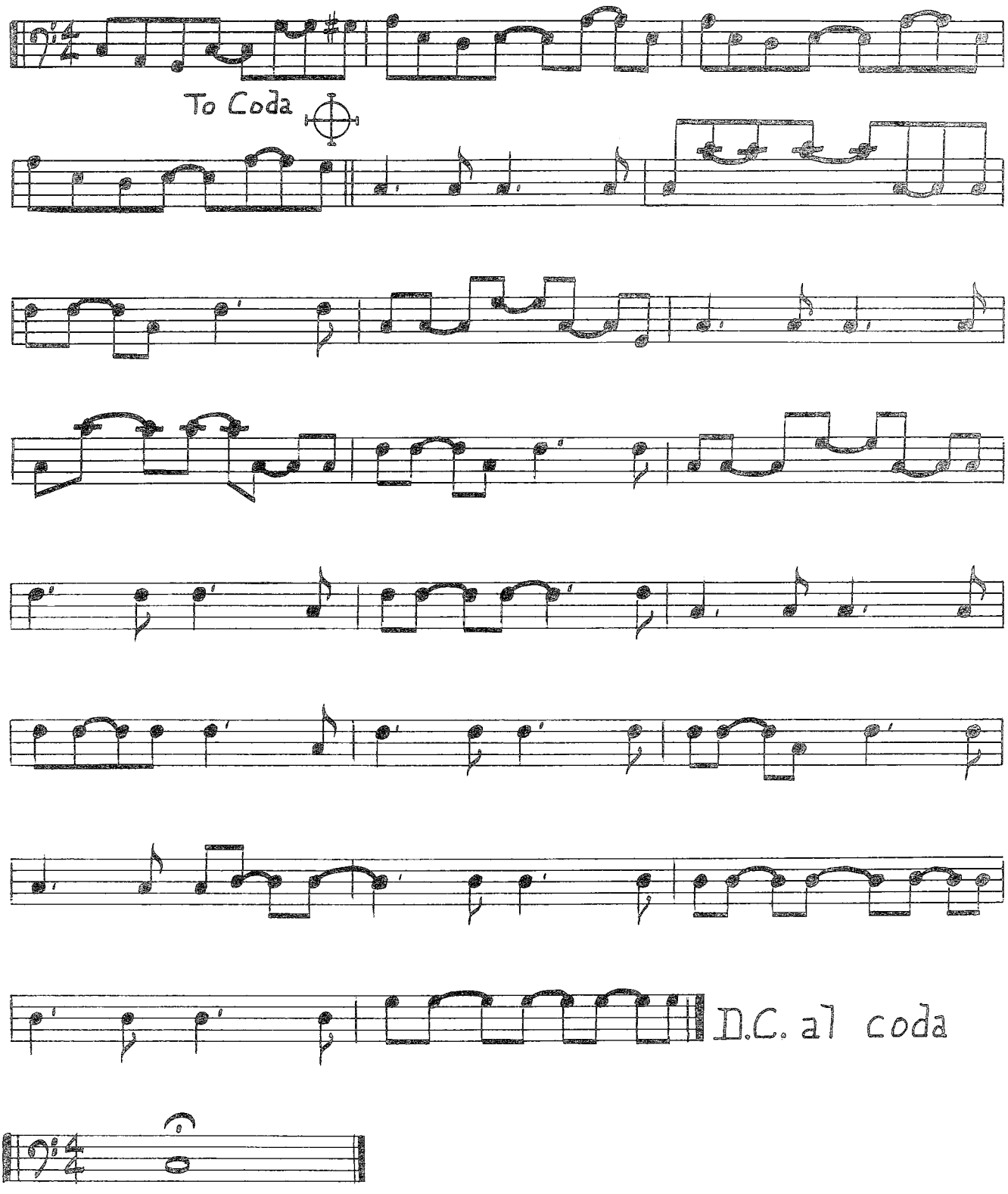
SECTION II

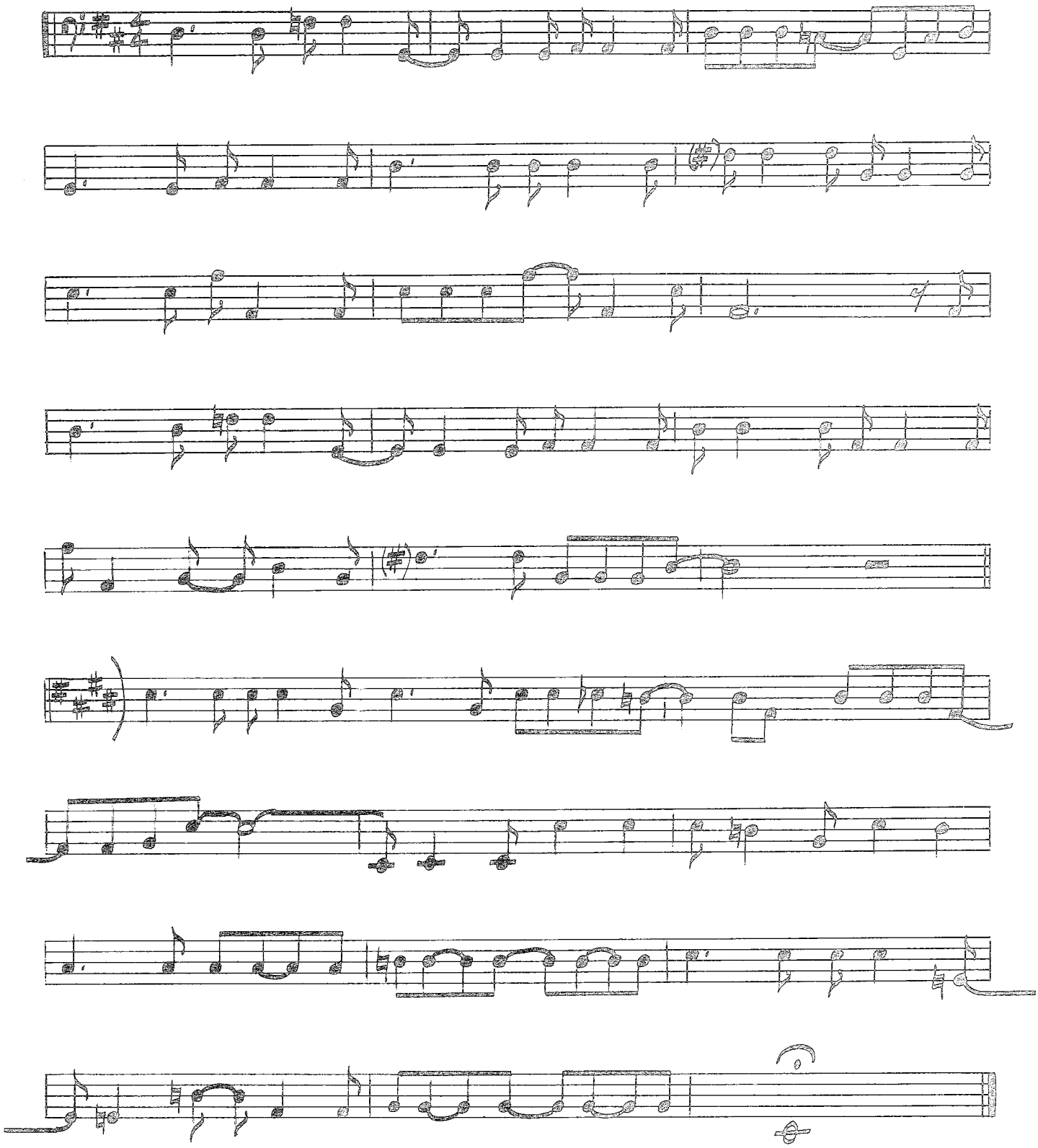
Syncopated, More Active Bass Lines and Rhythms. Eighth-Note Feel.
Top 40, Soft Rock, Country/Western, Radio and TV Jingles.

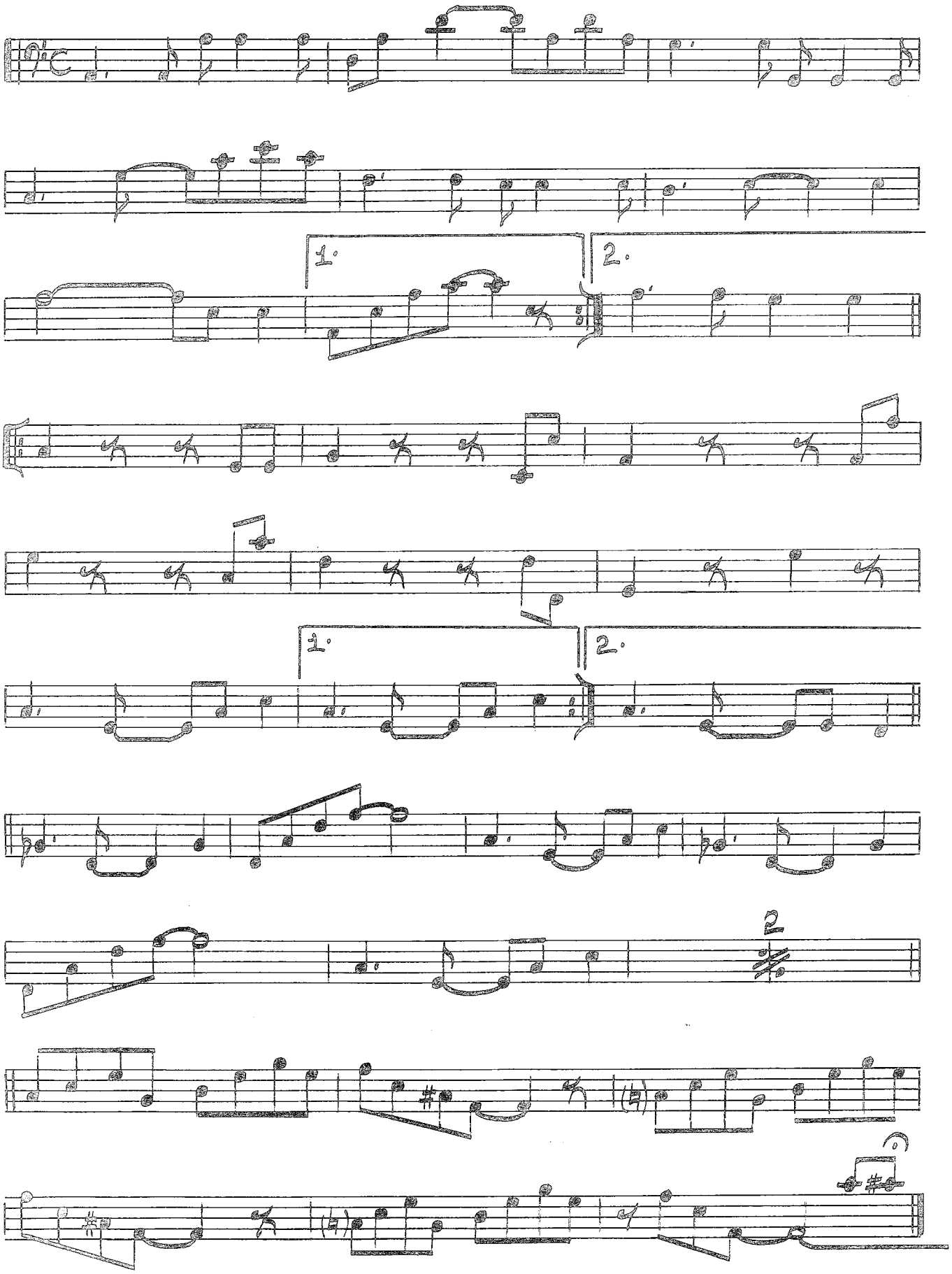


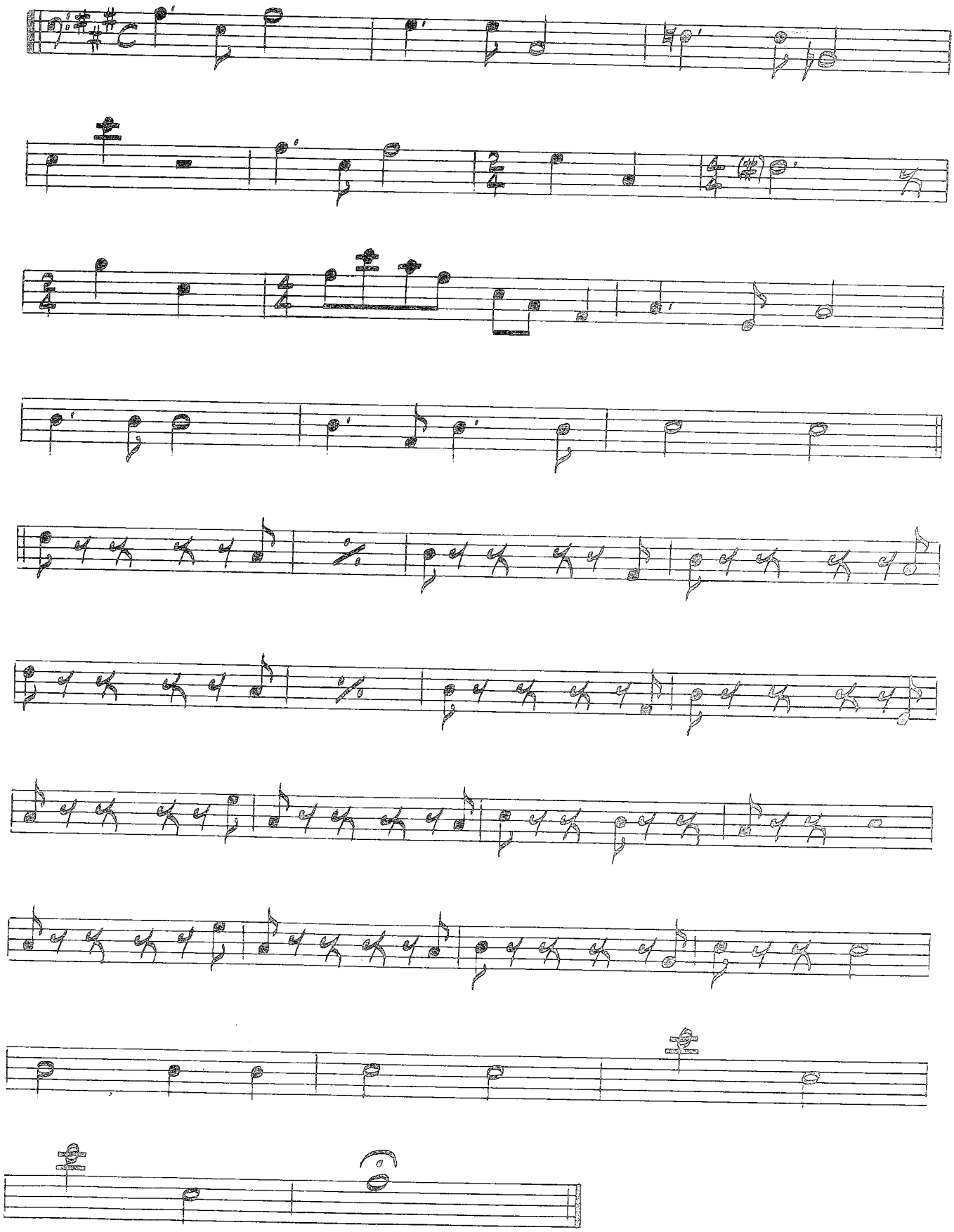


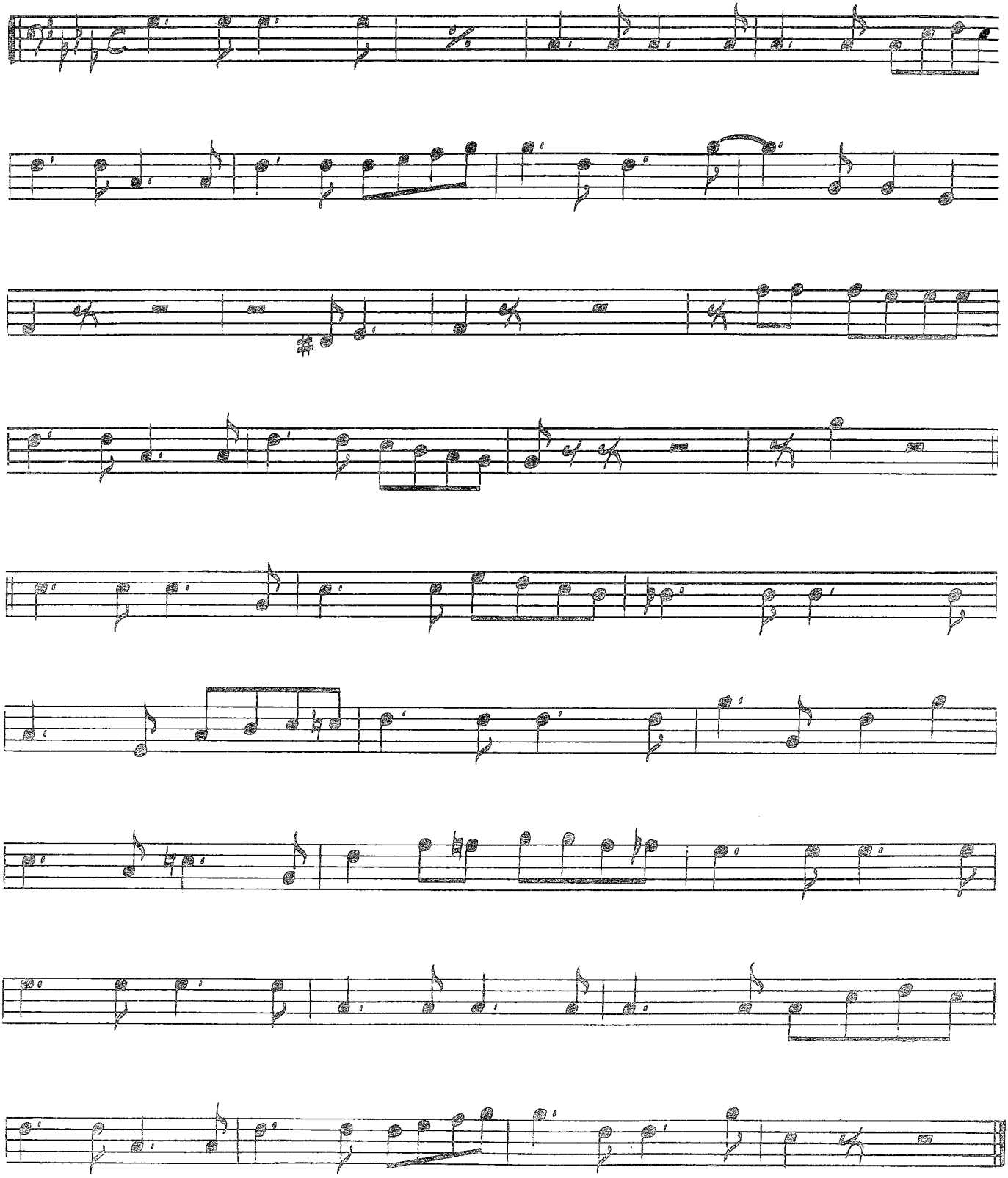


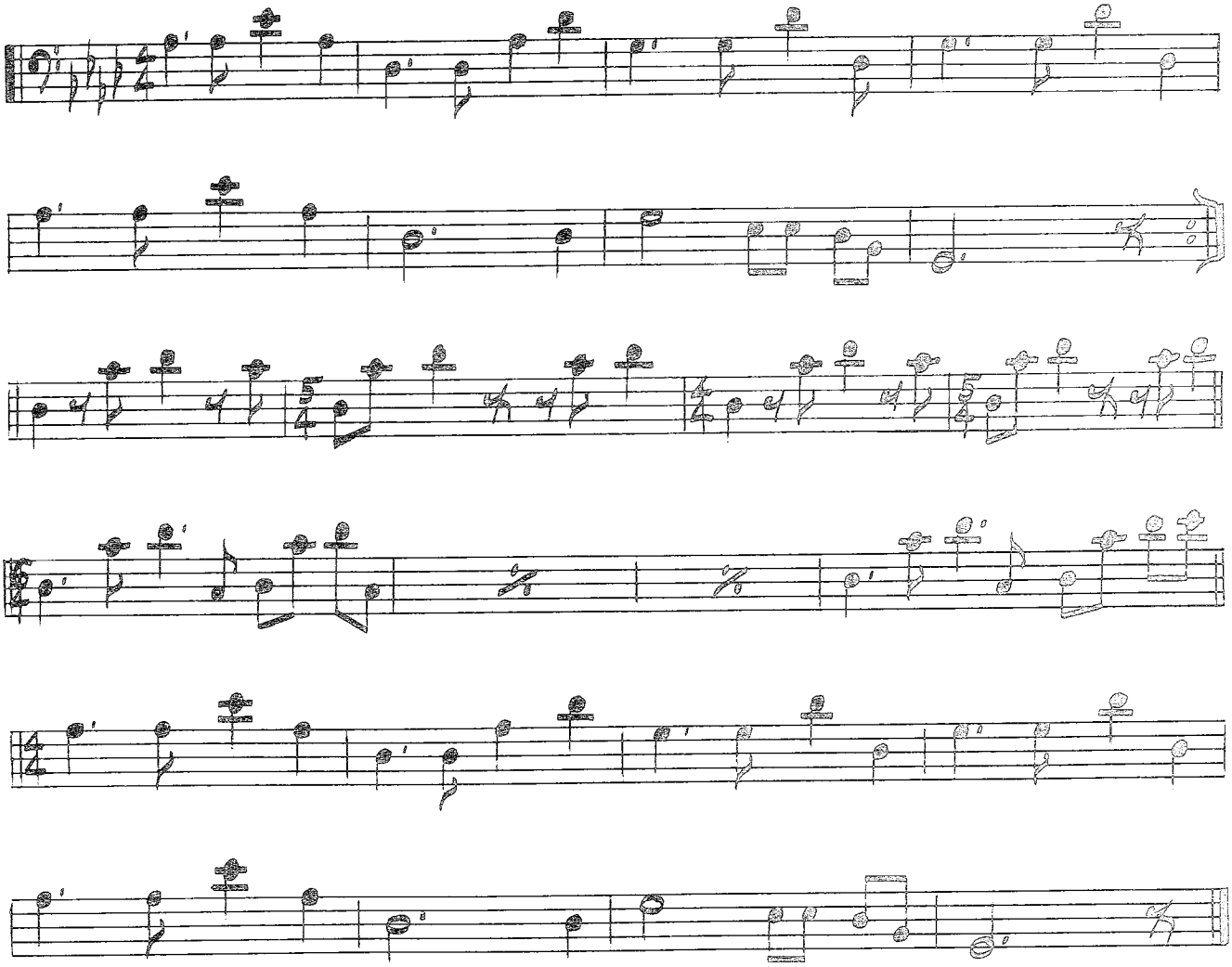

To Coda
D.C. al coda
Coda

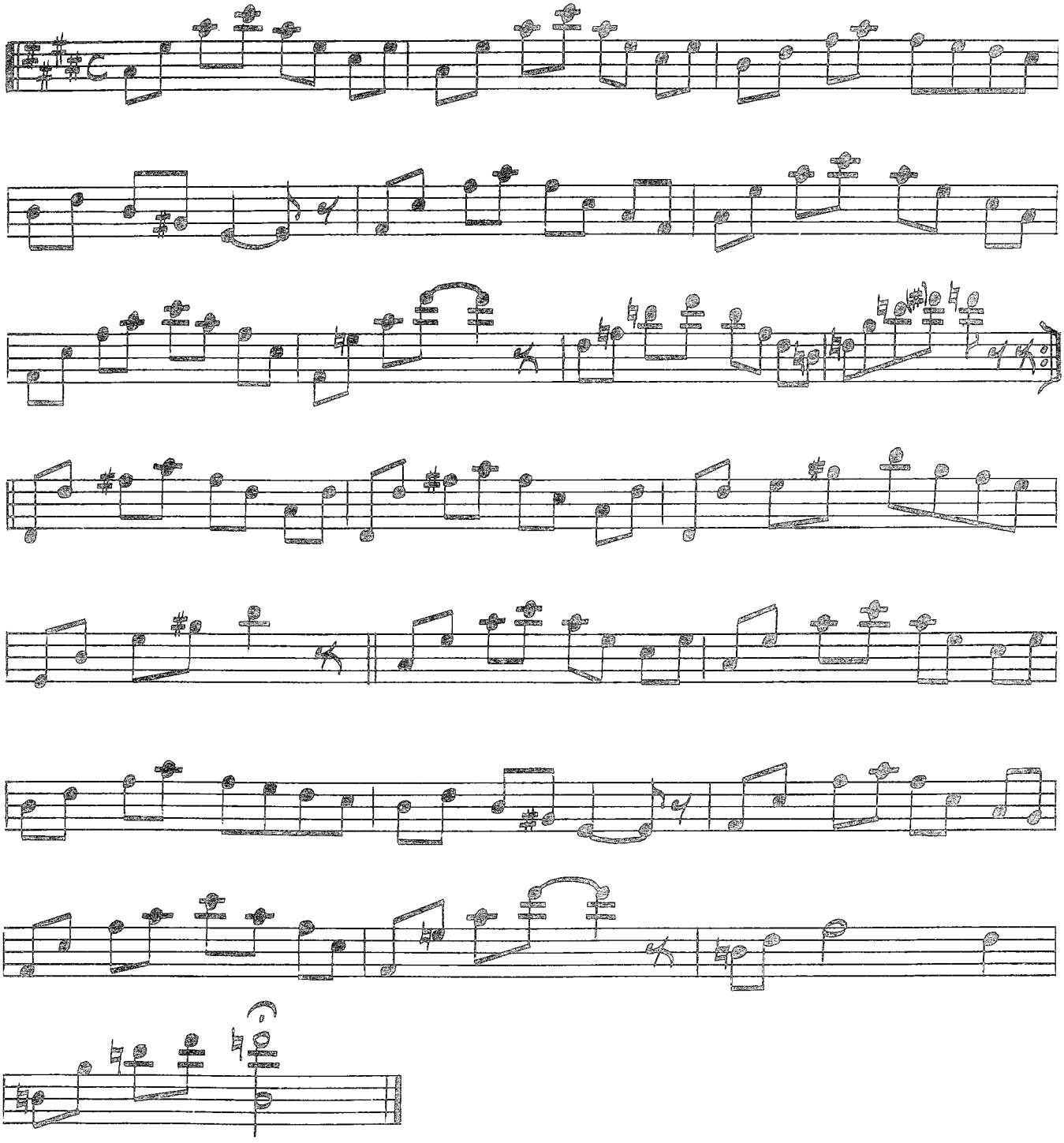


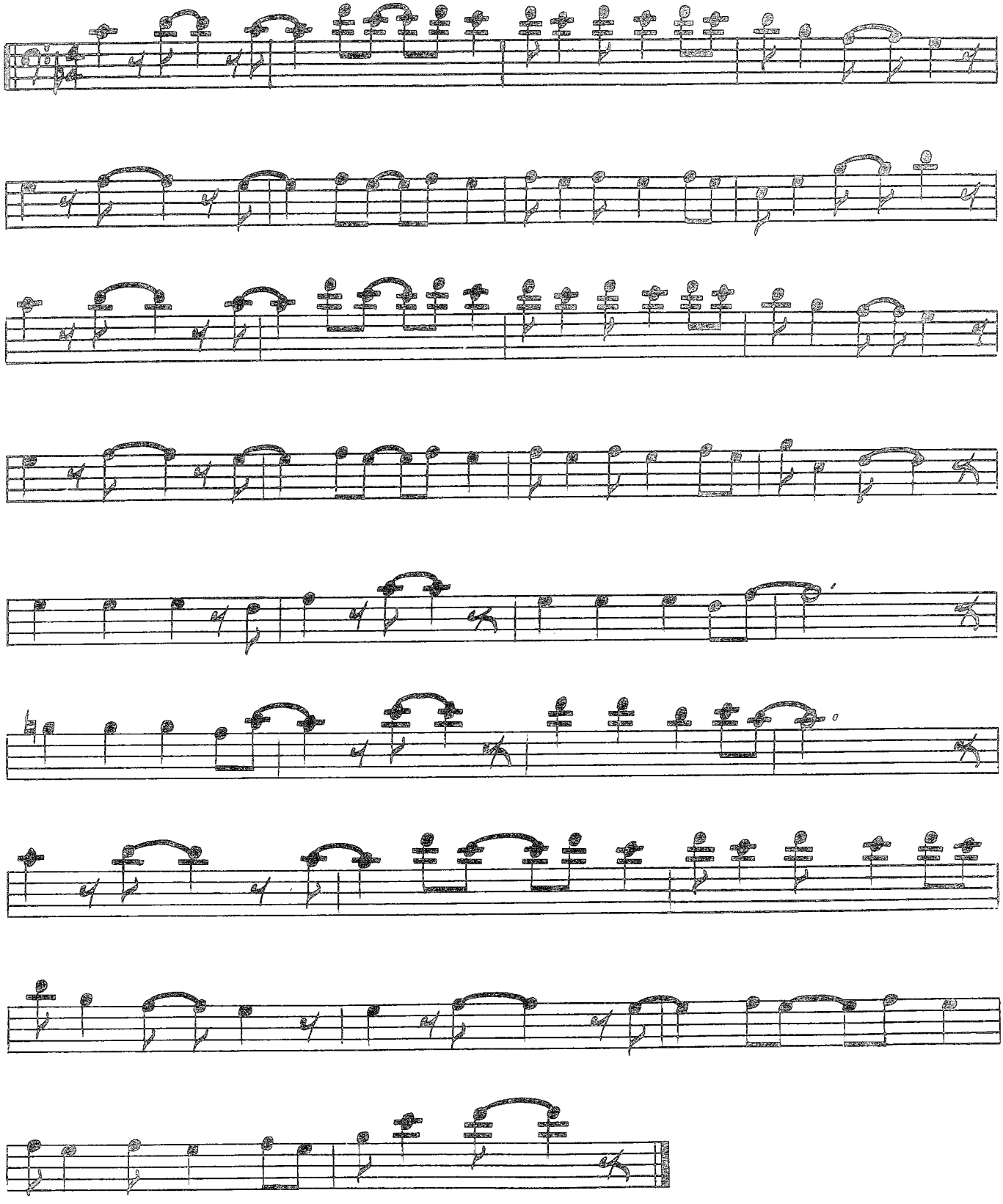

1.
2.
1.
2.
2

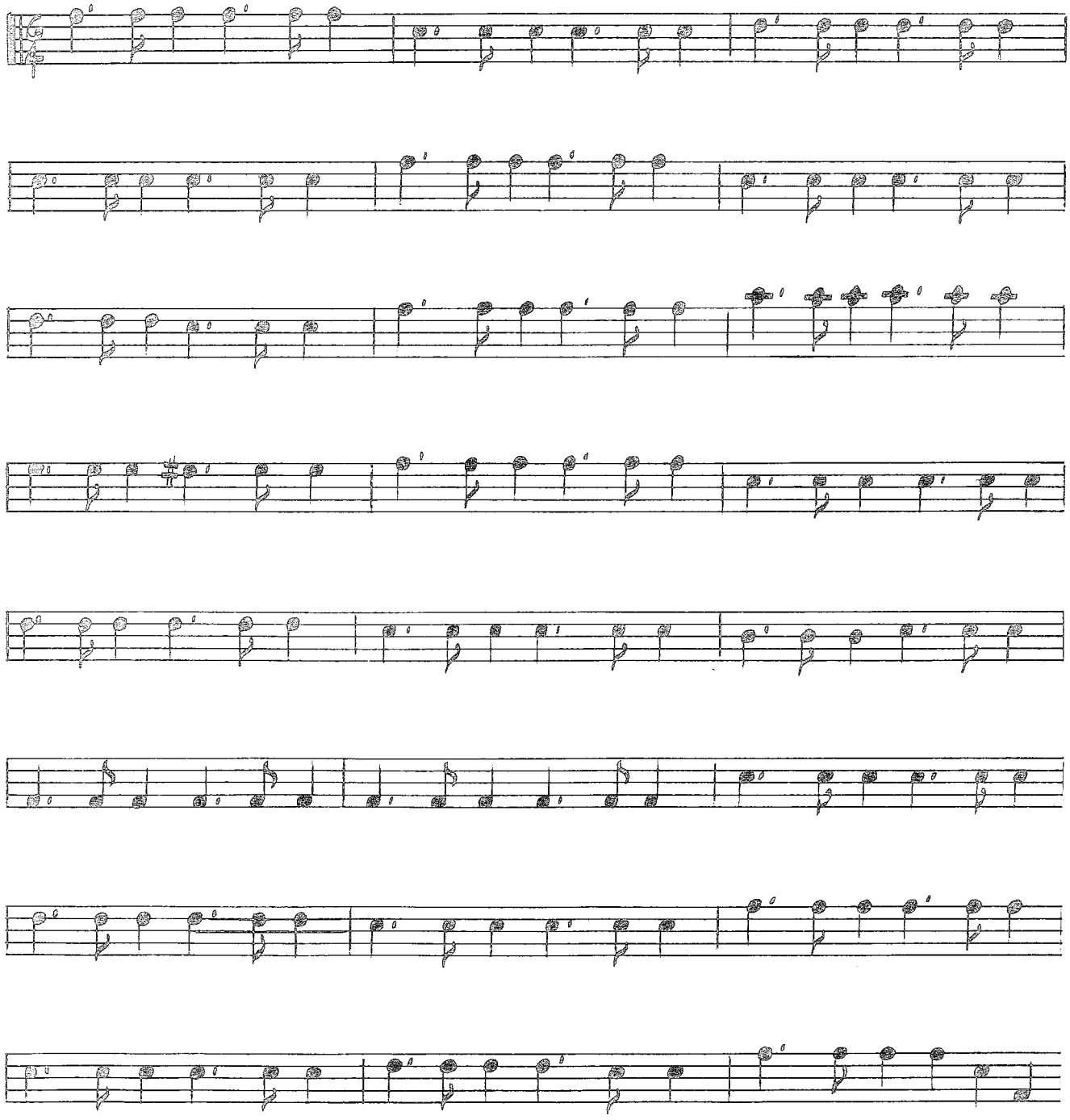


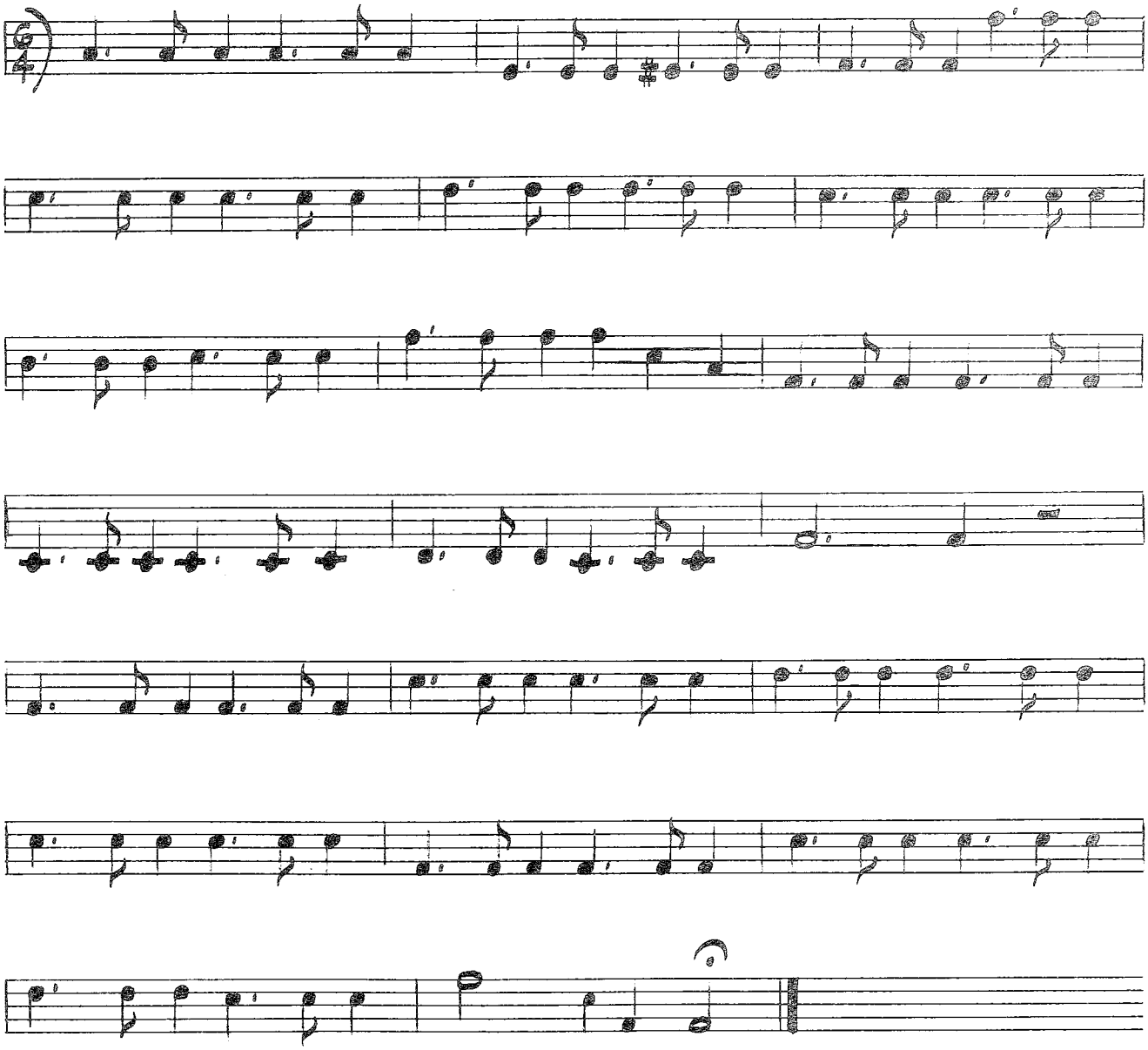


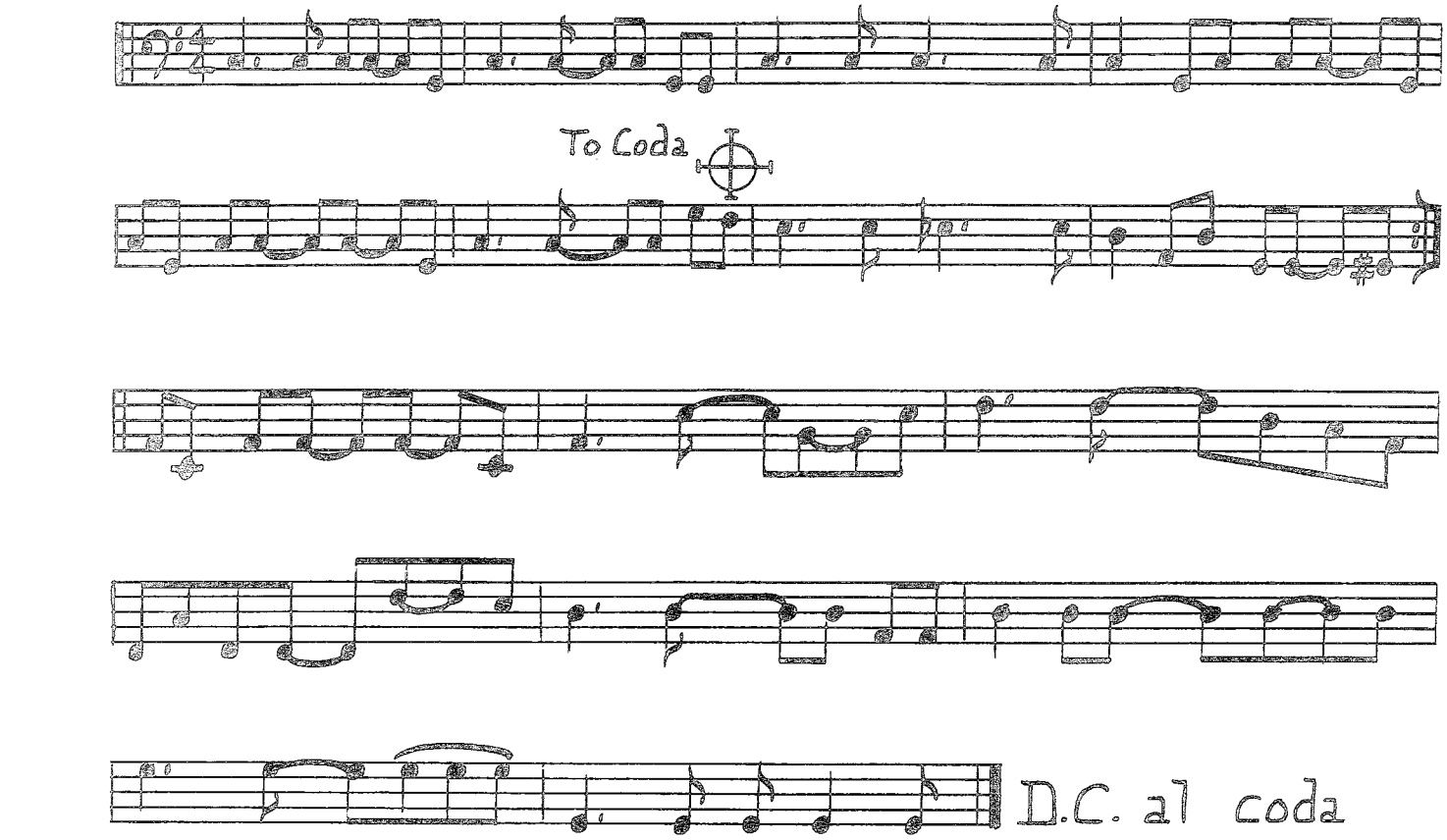


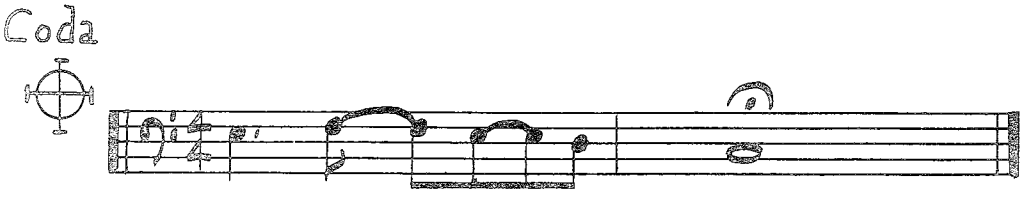


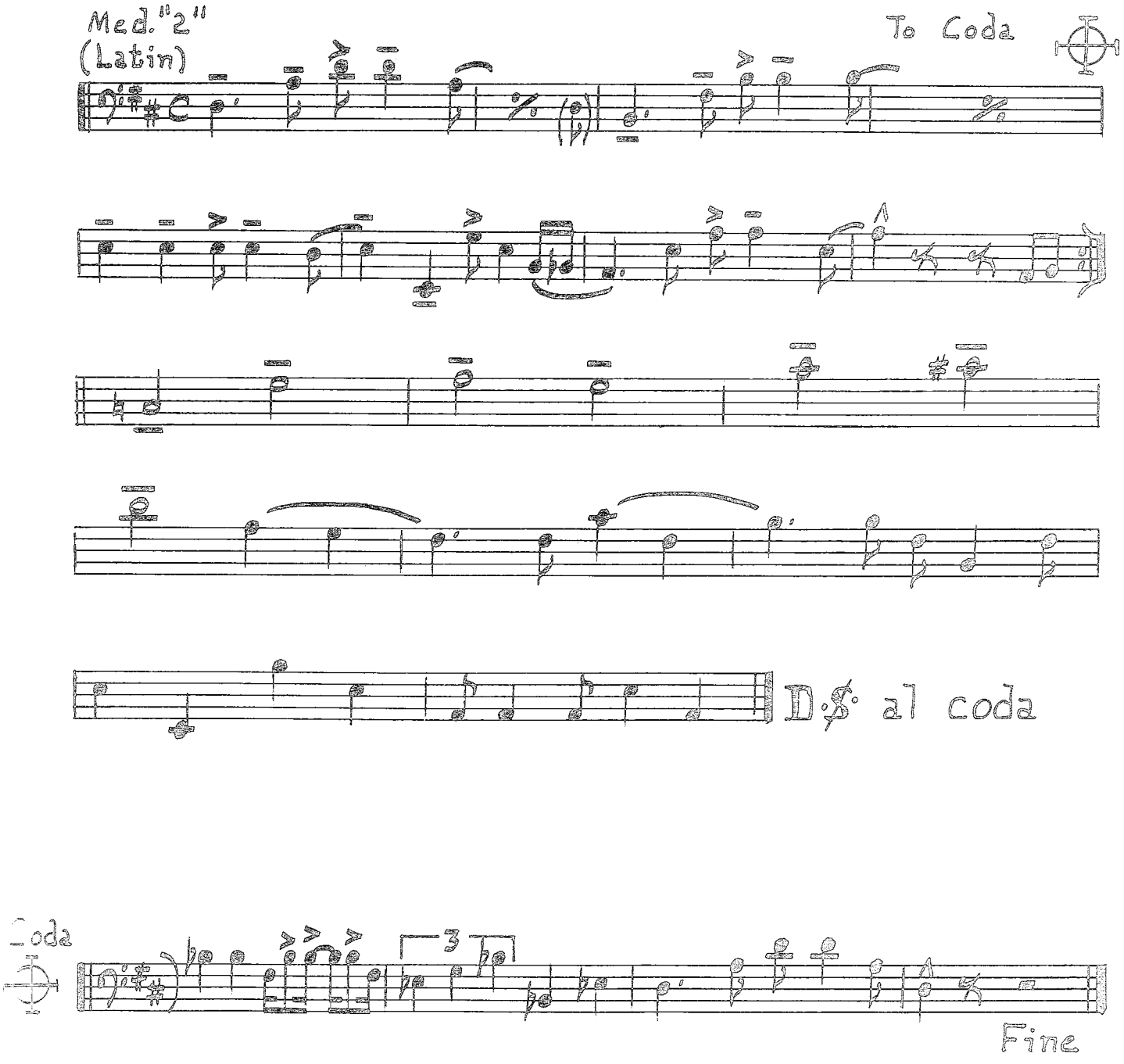


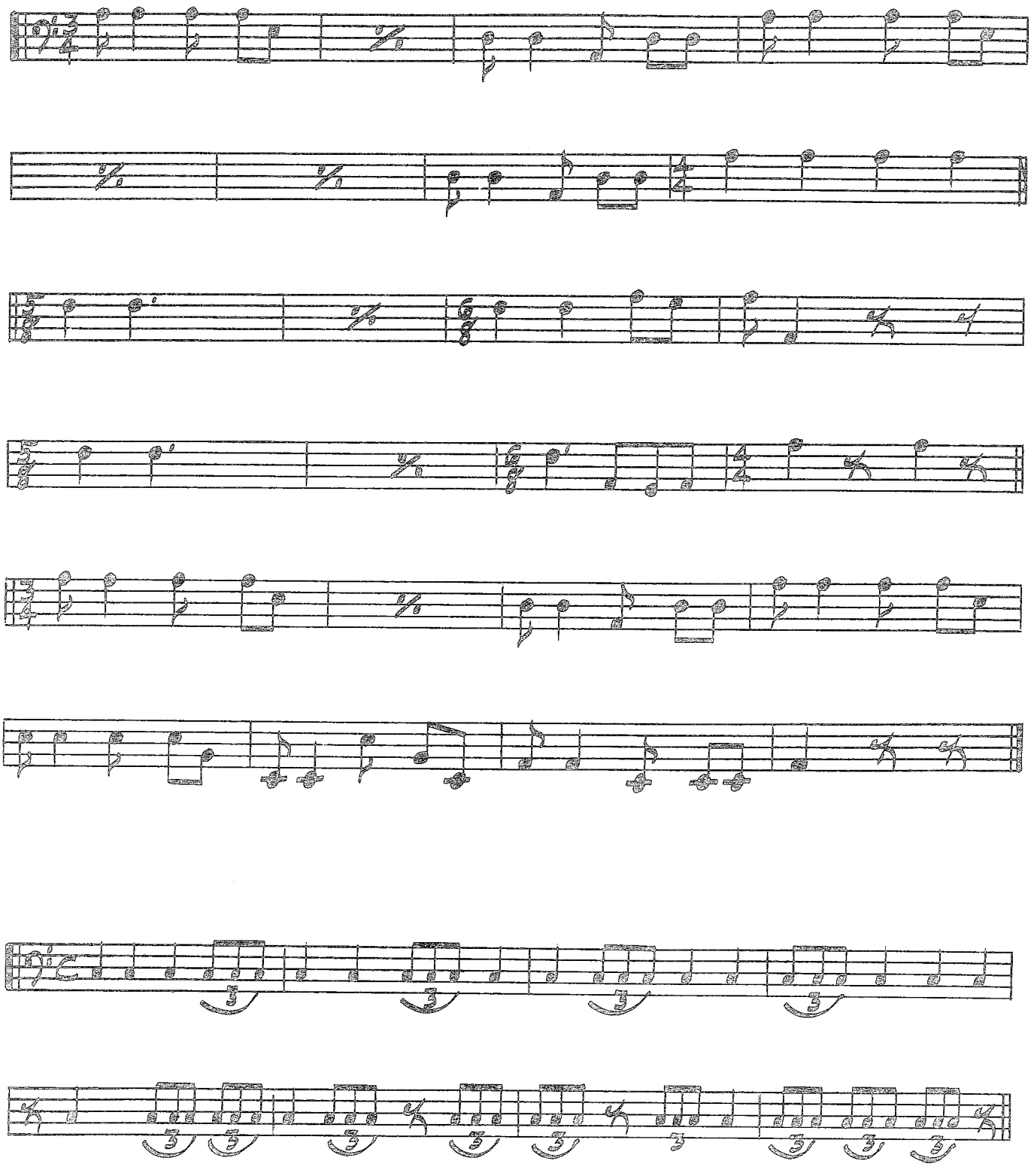


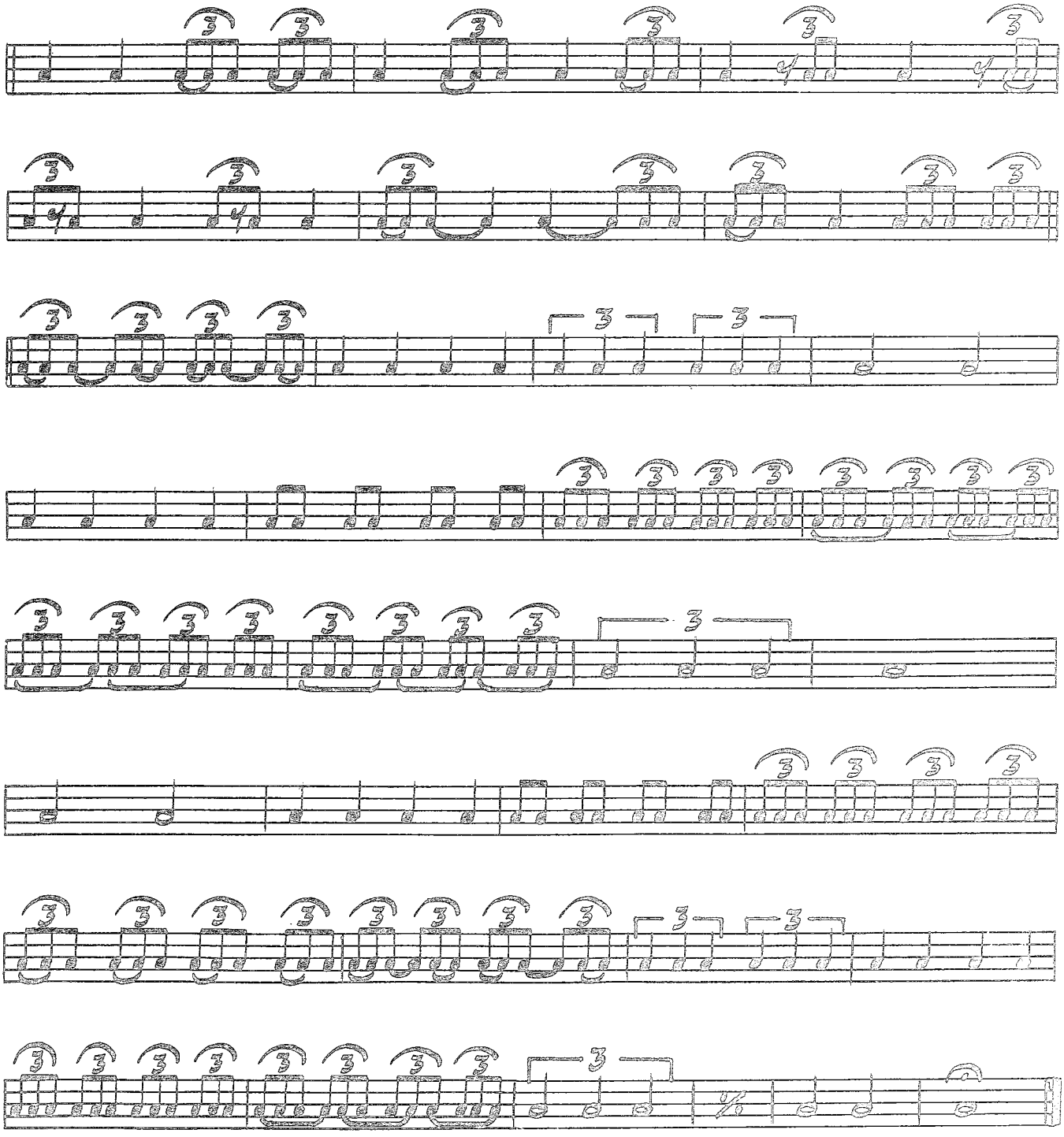


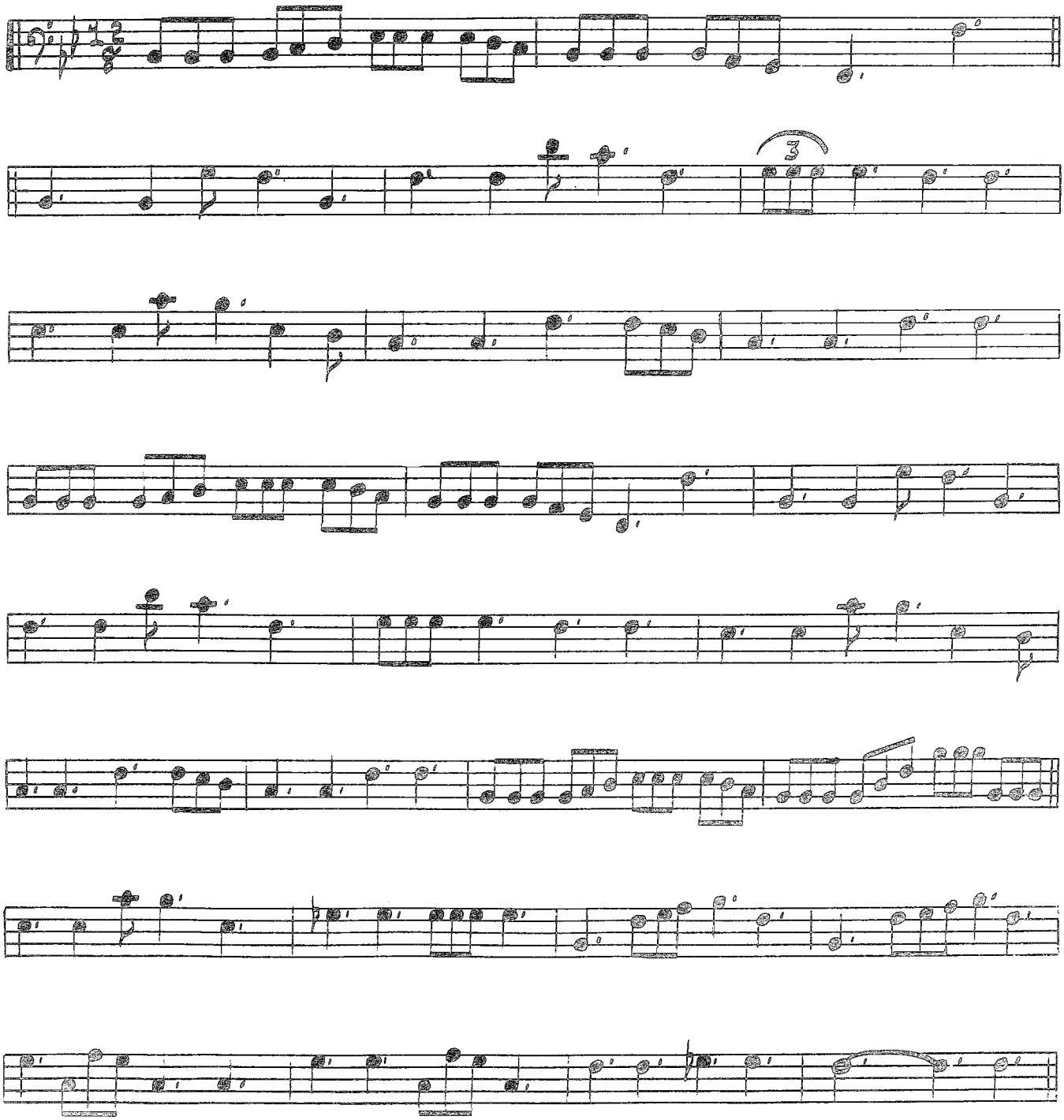

To Coda
D.C. al coda


Coda


Med. "2"
(Latin)
To Coda
D.S. al coda
Coda
3
Fine



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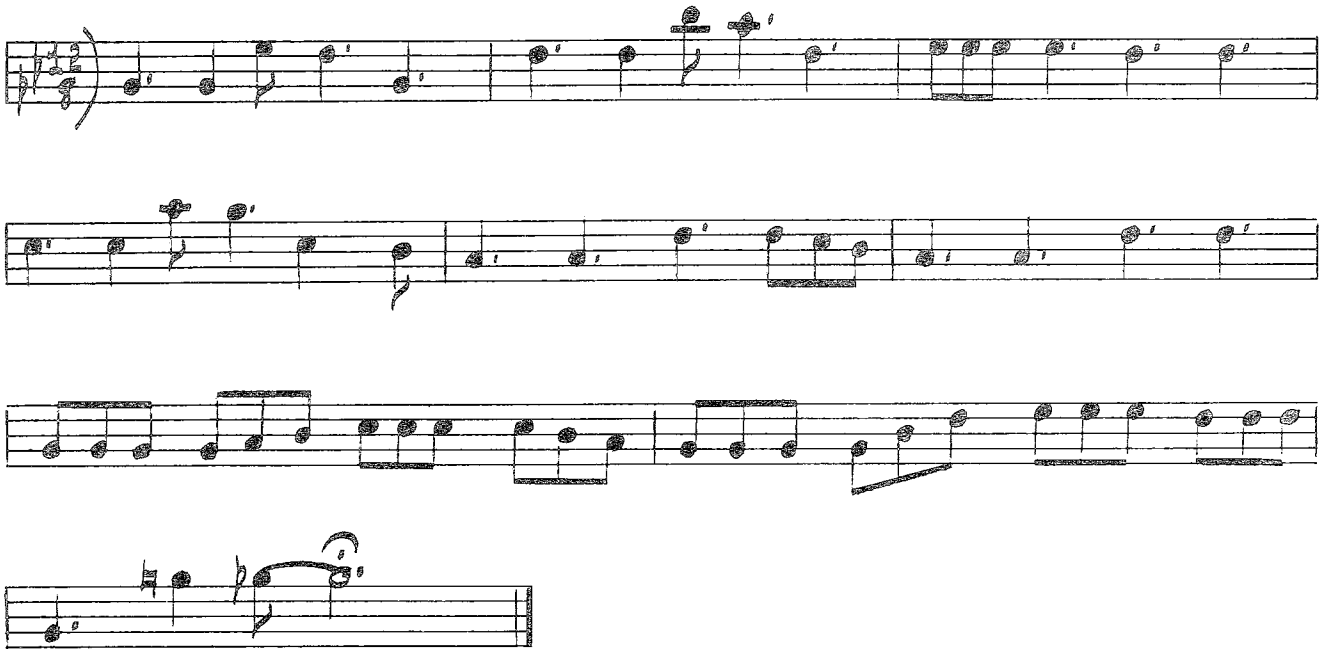
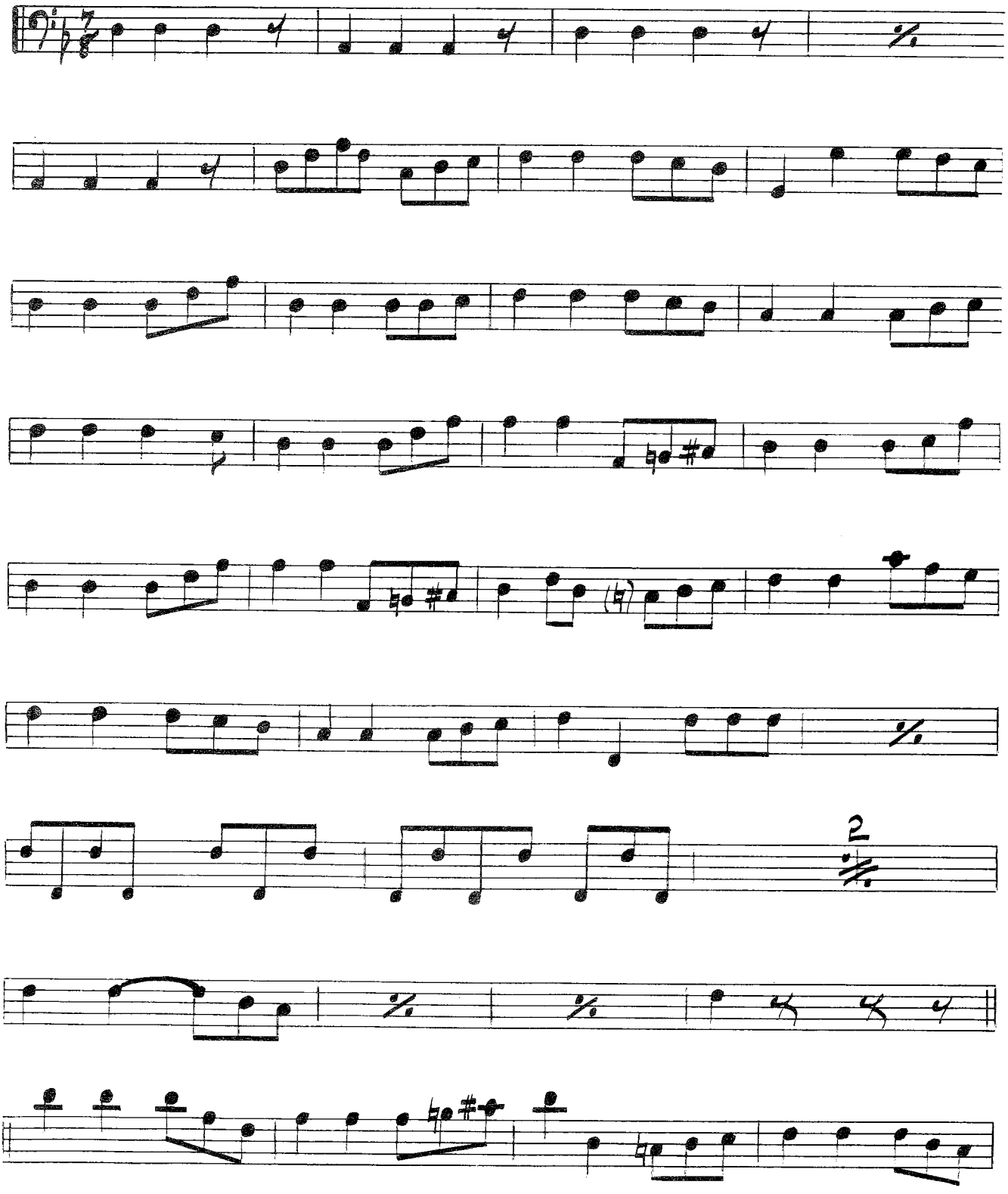
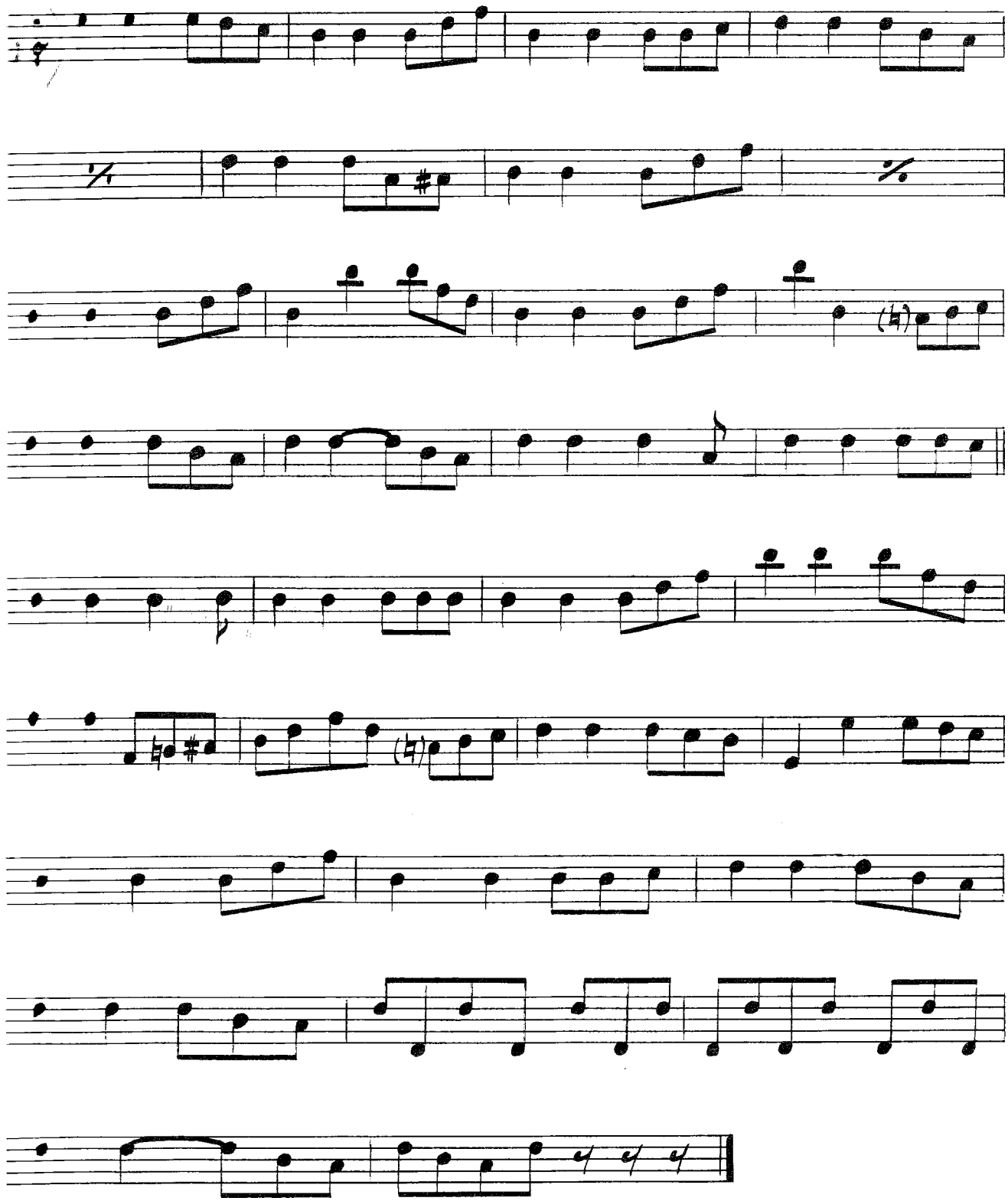
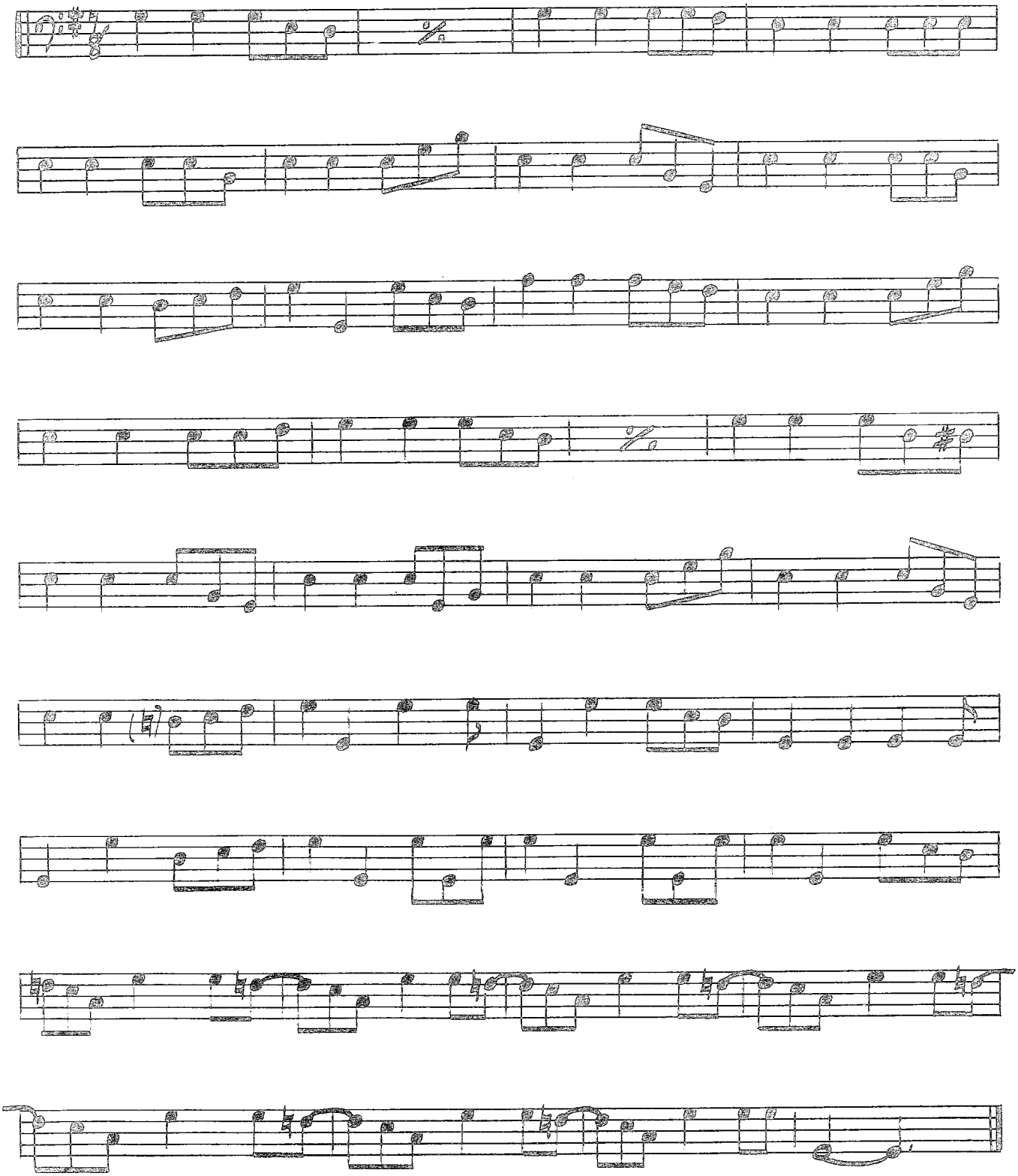
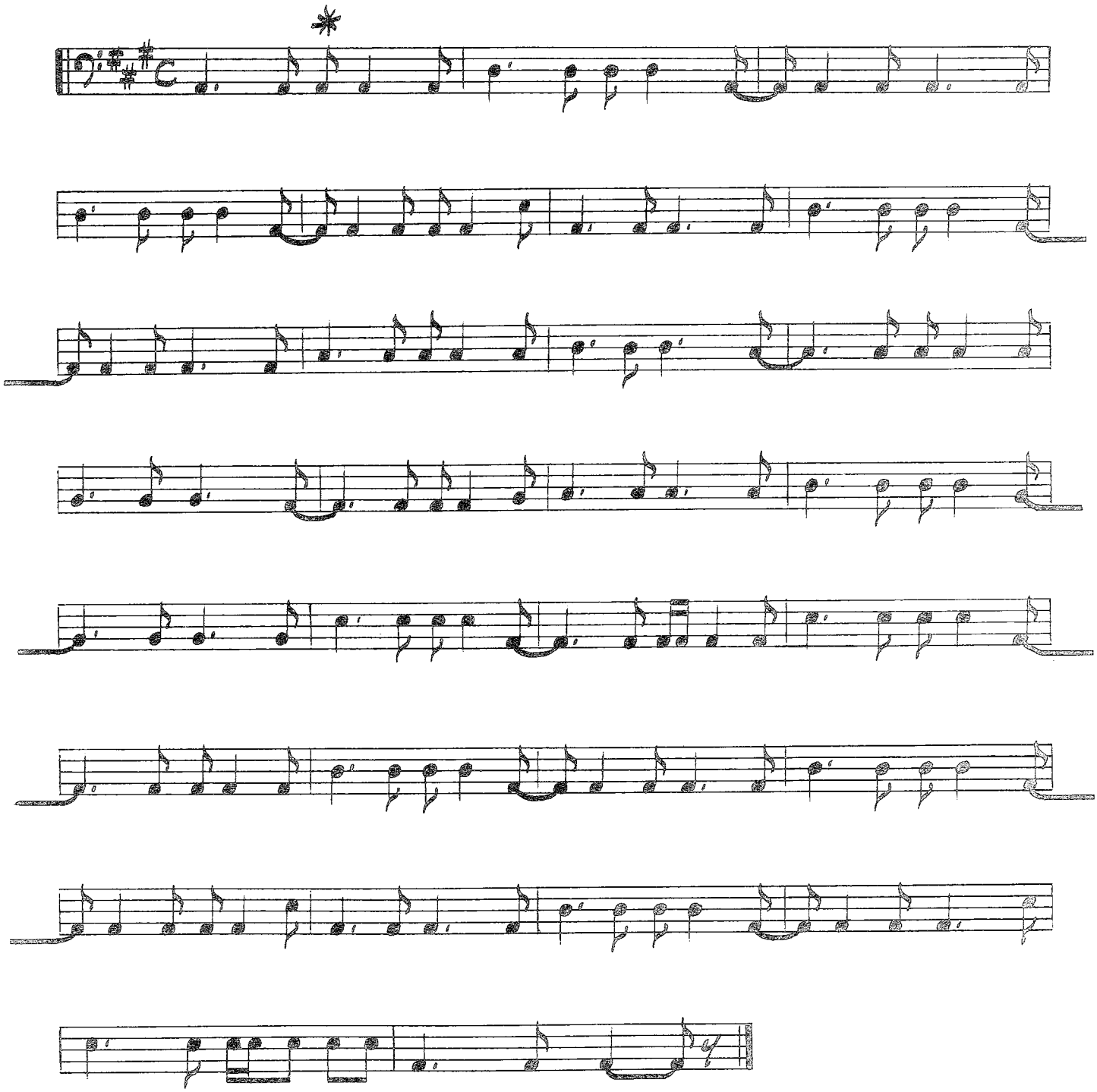


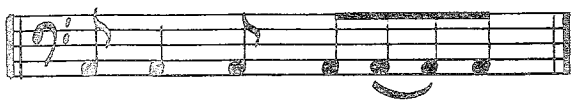

2

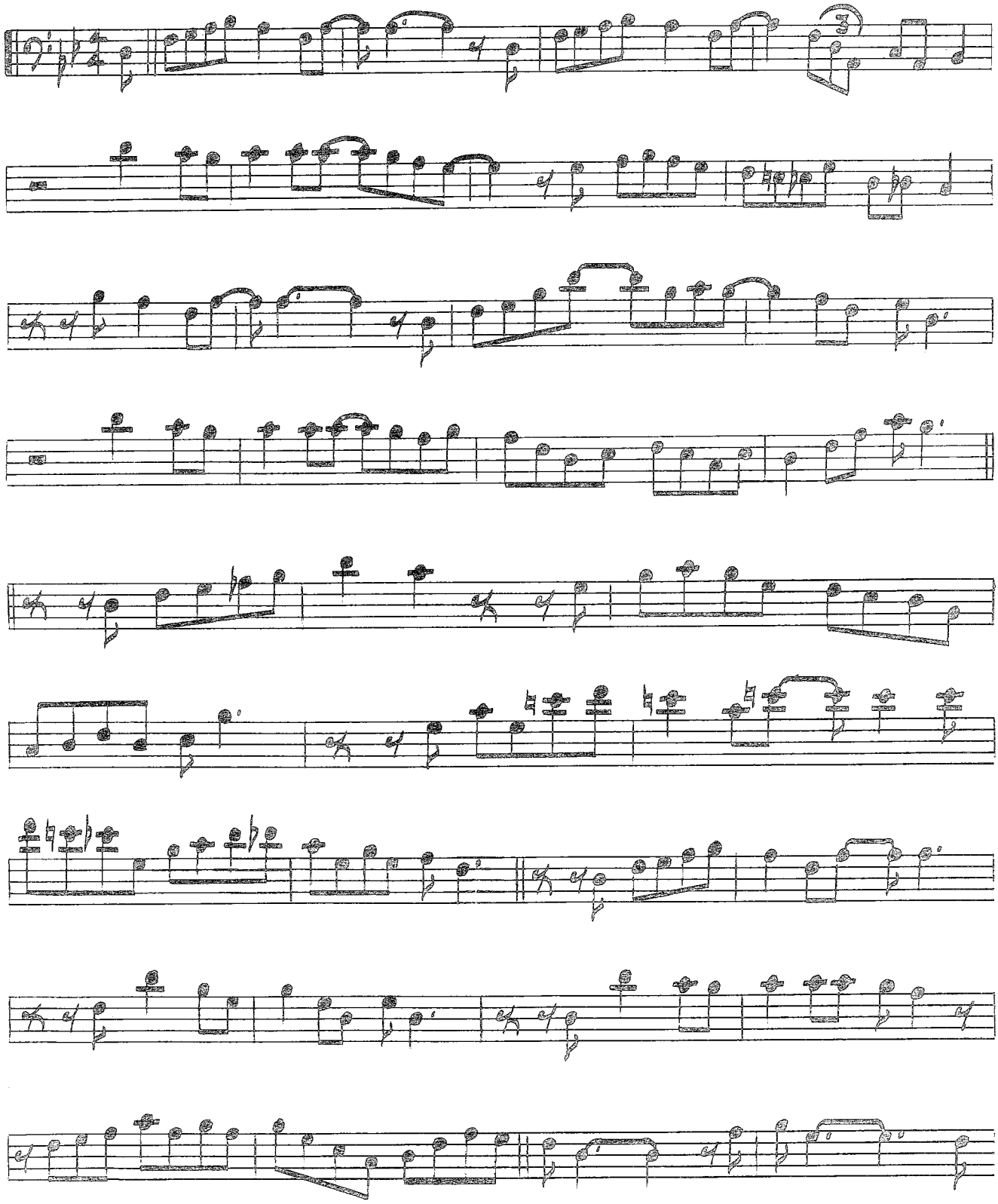


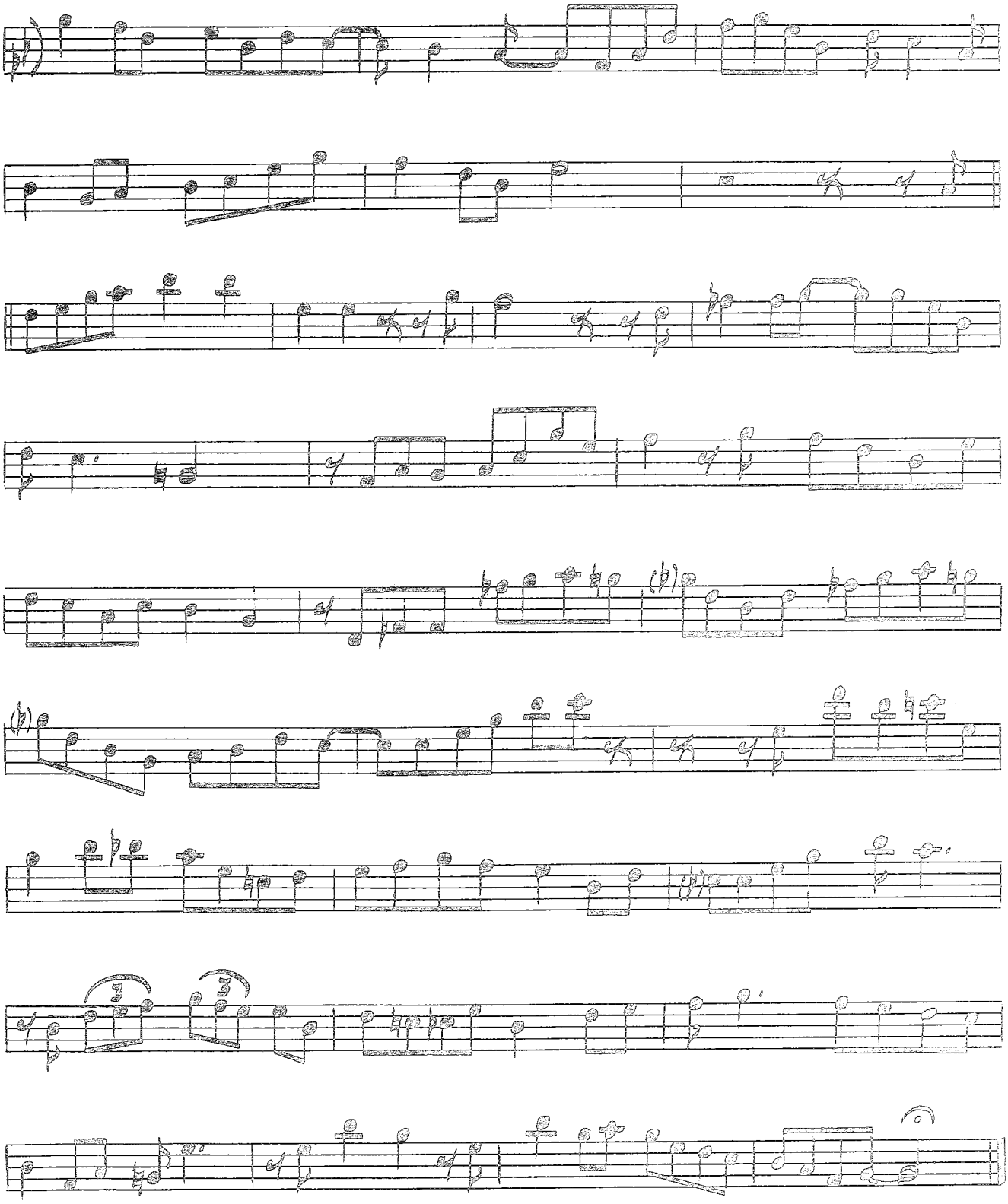




* Note

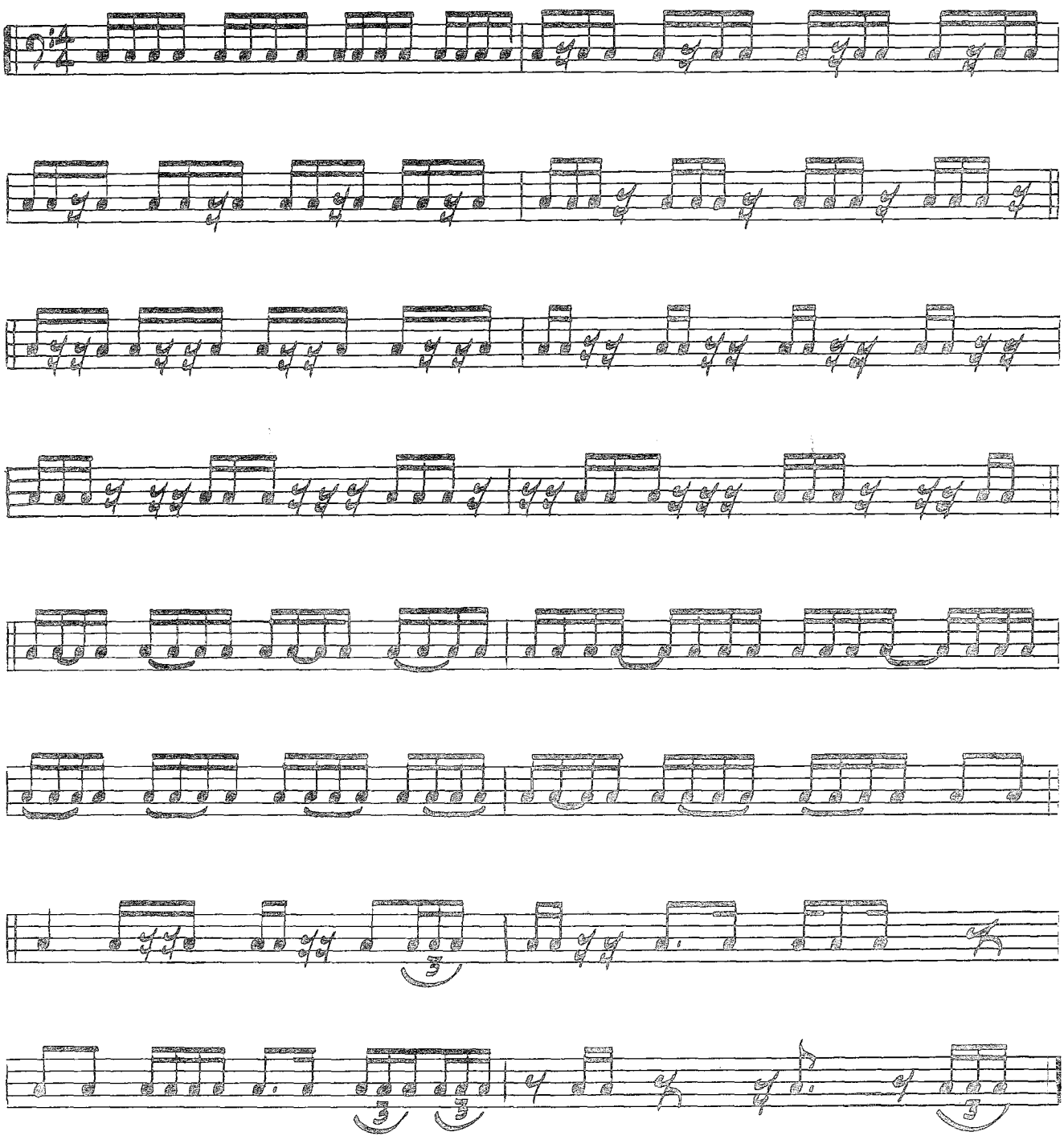


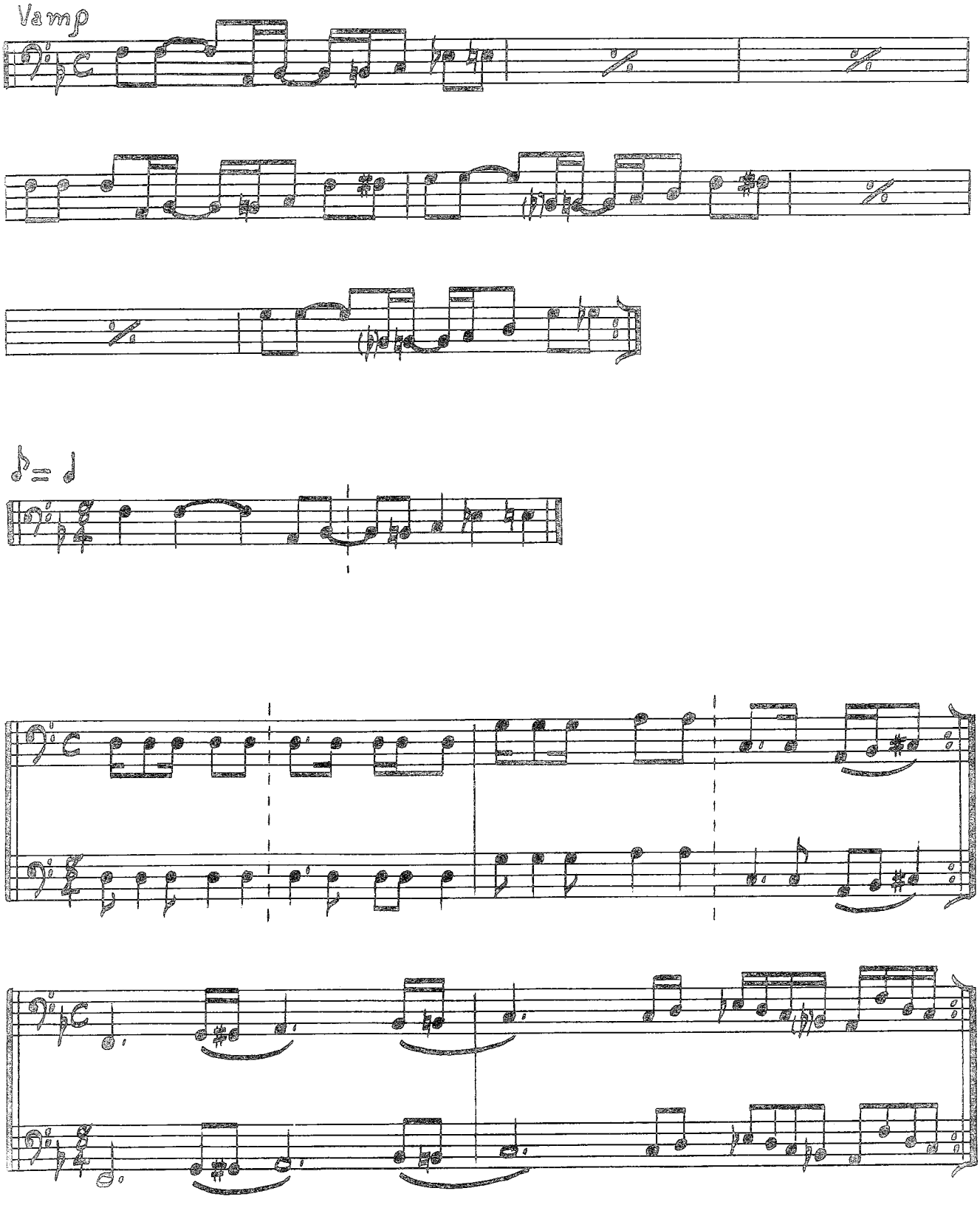


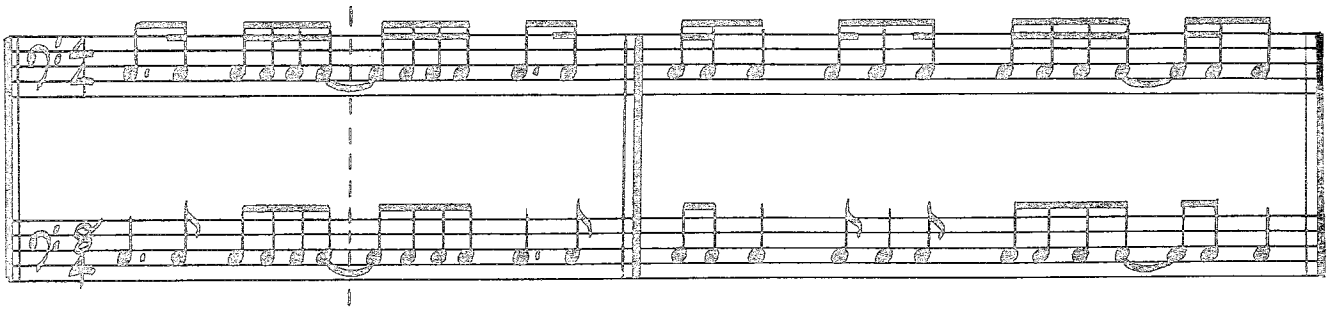


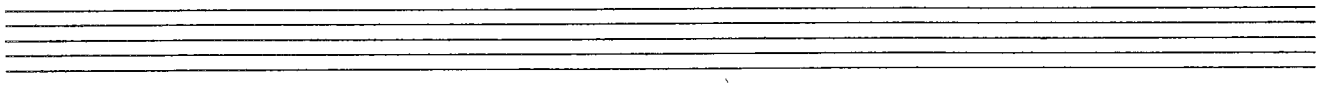
SECTION III

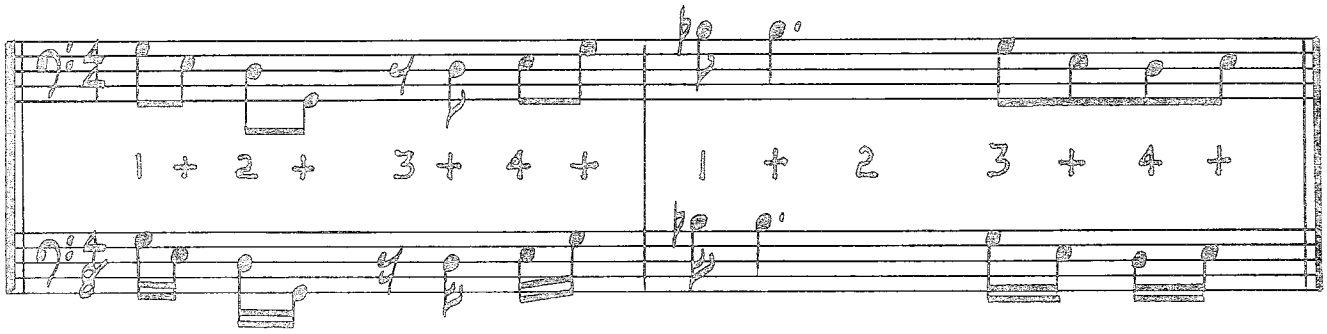
Busier, More syncopated Lines and Rhythms. Eighth and Sixteenth Note Feel. Funk, Rock, Disco, Contemporary Musical Theatre.

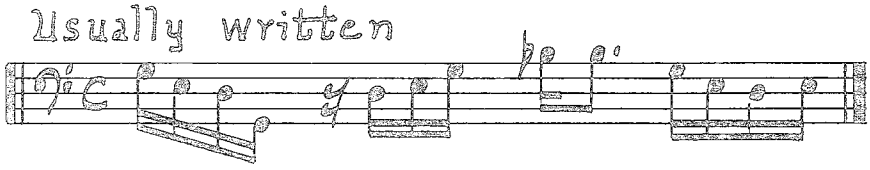


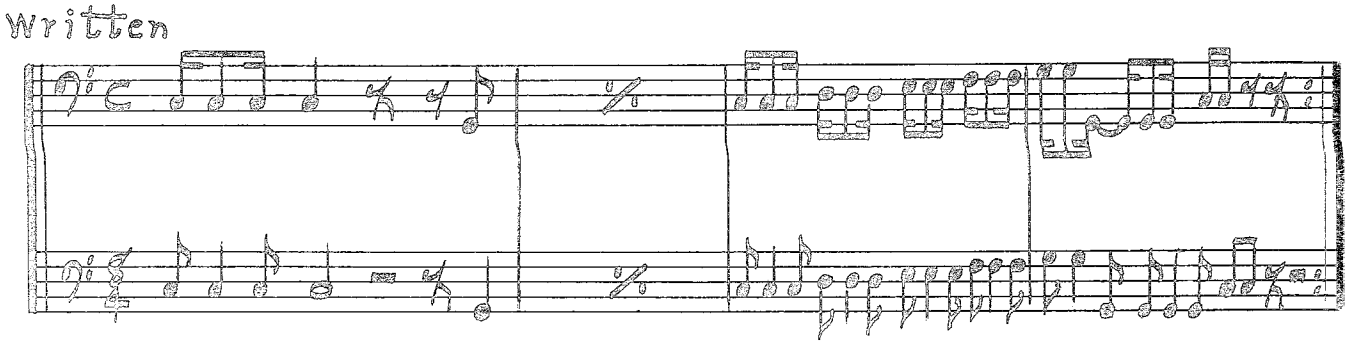

Vamp






1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 3 + 4 +


Usually written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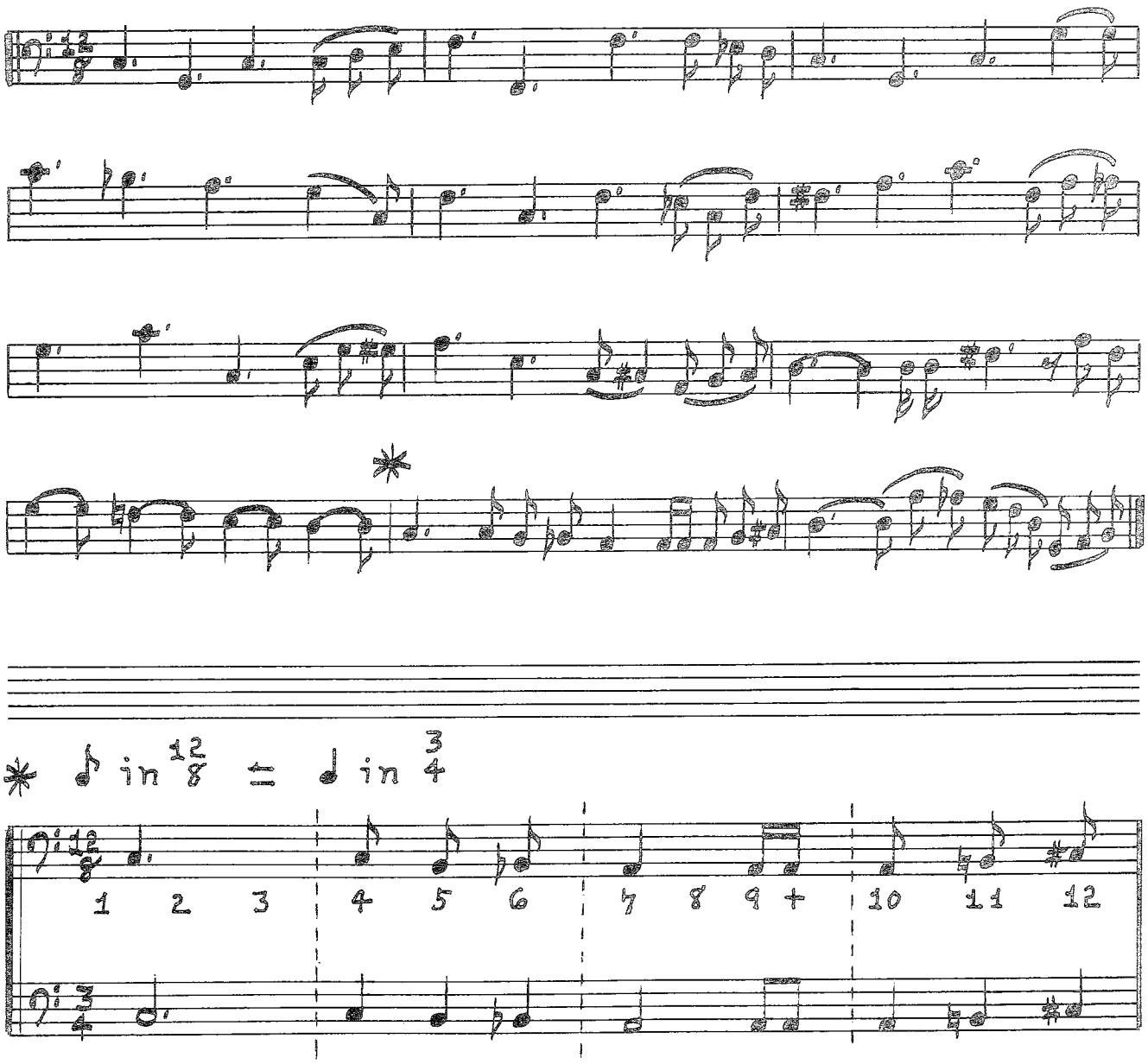
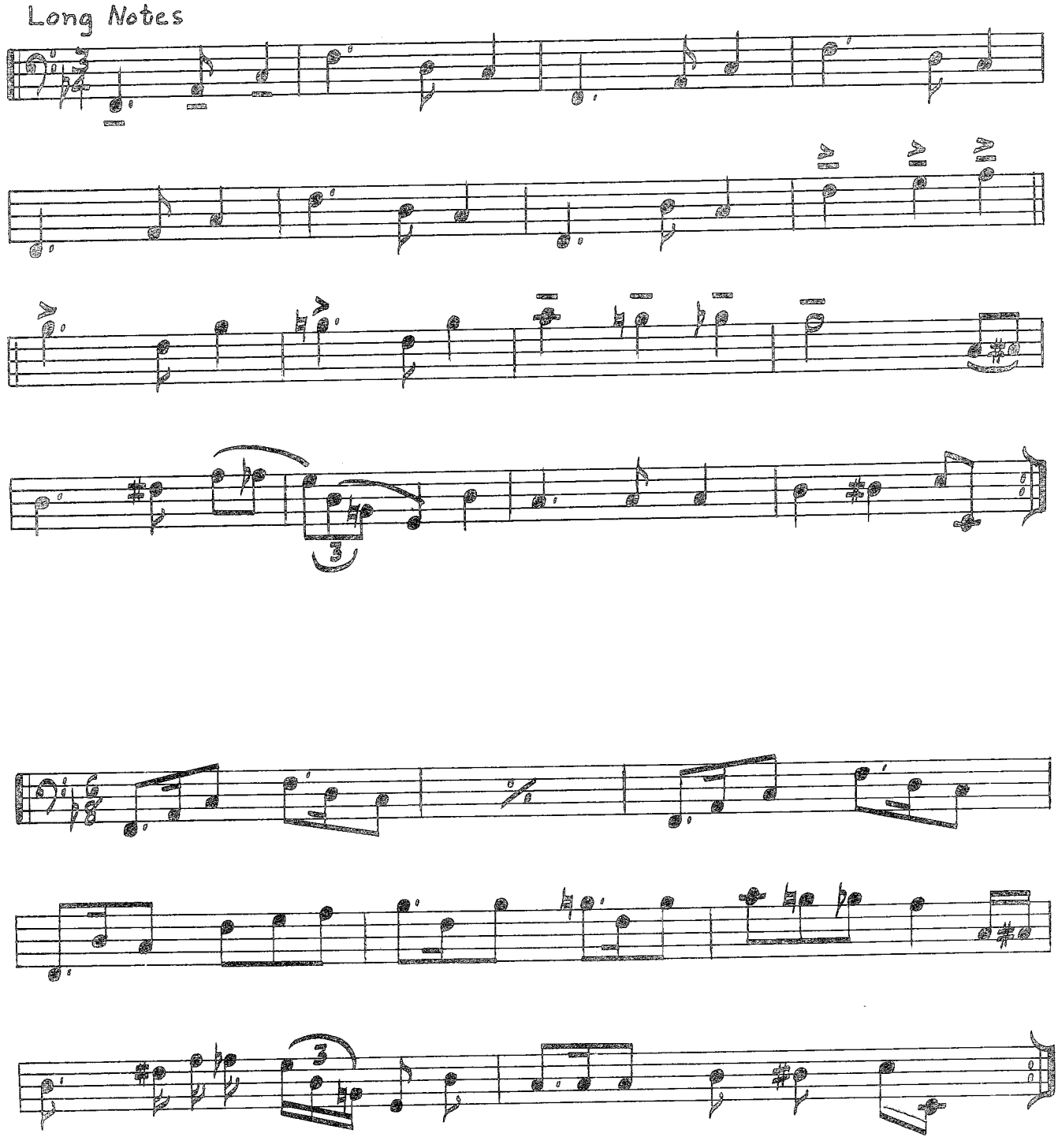
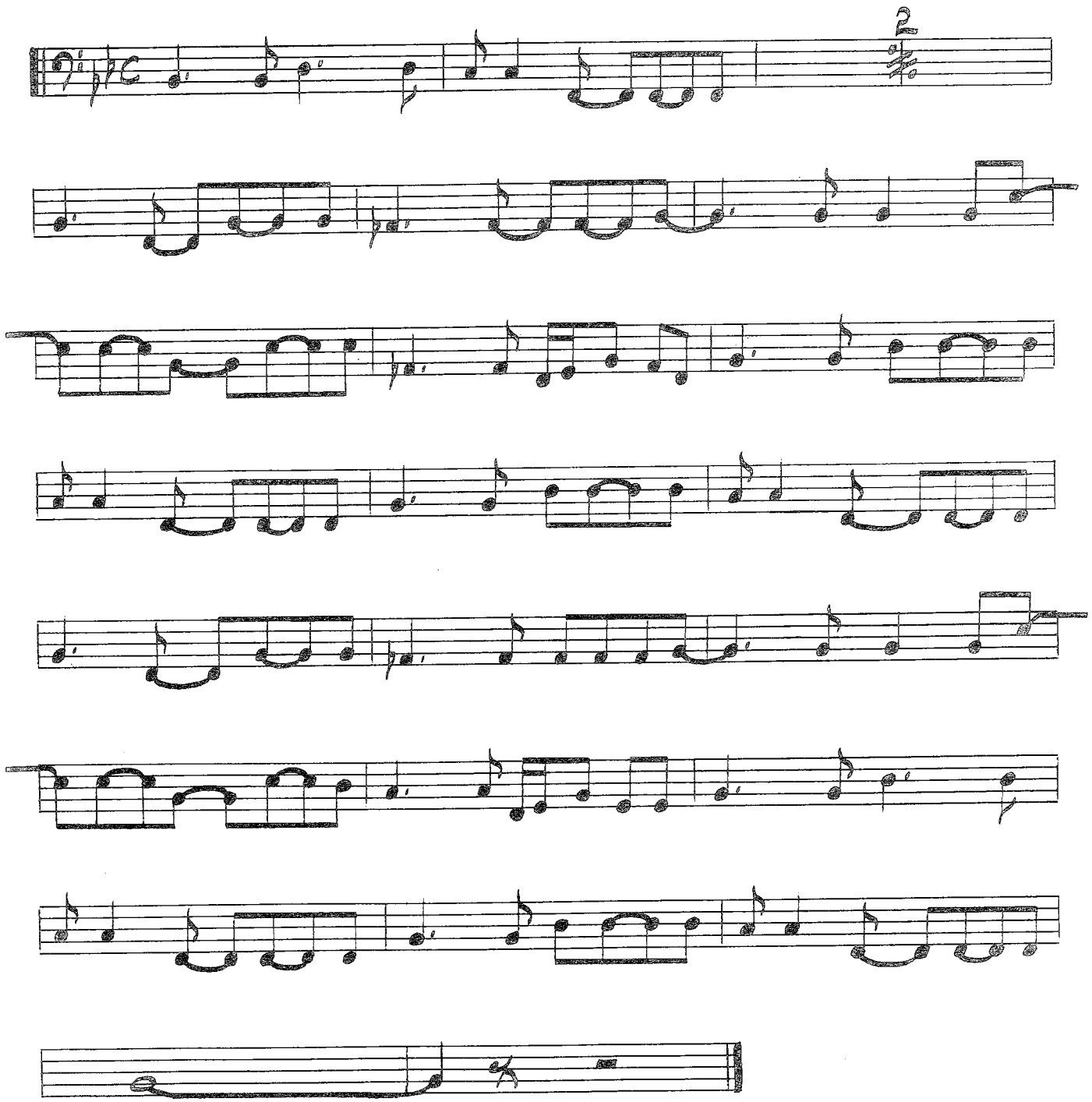
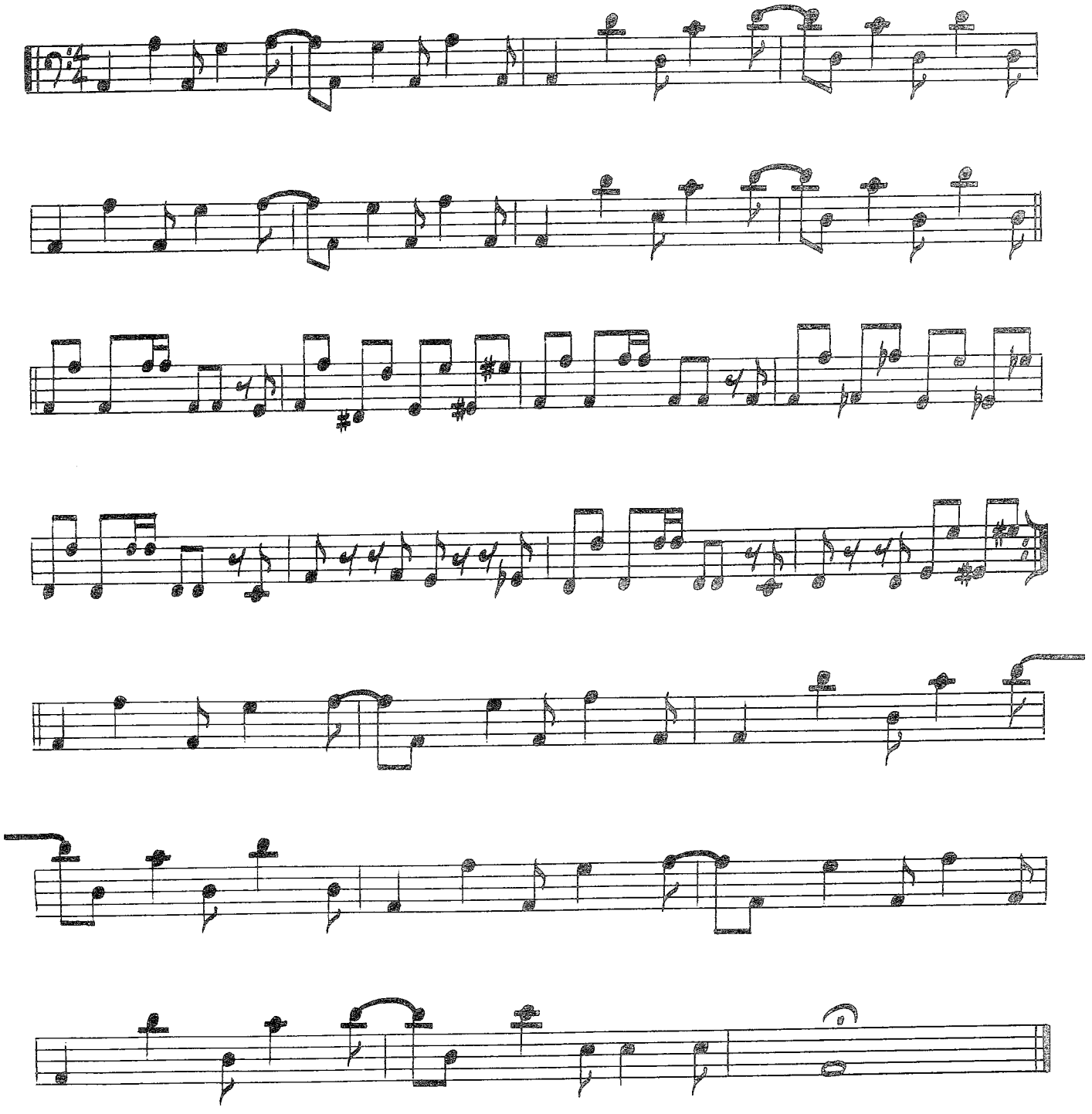
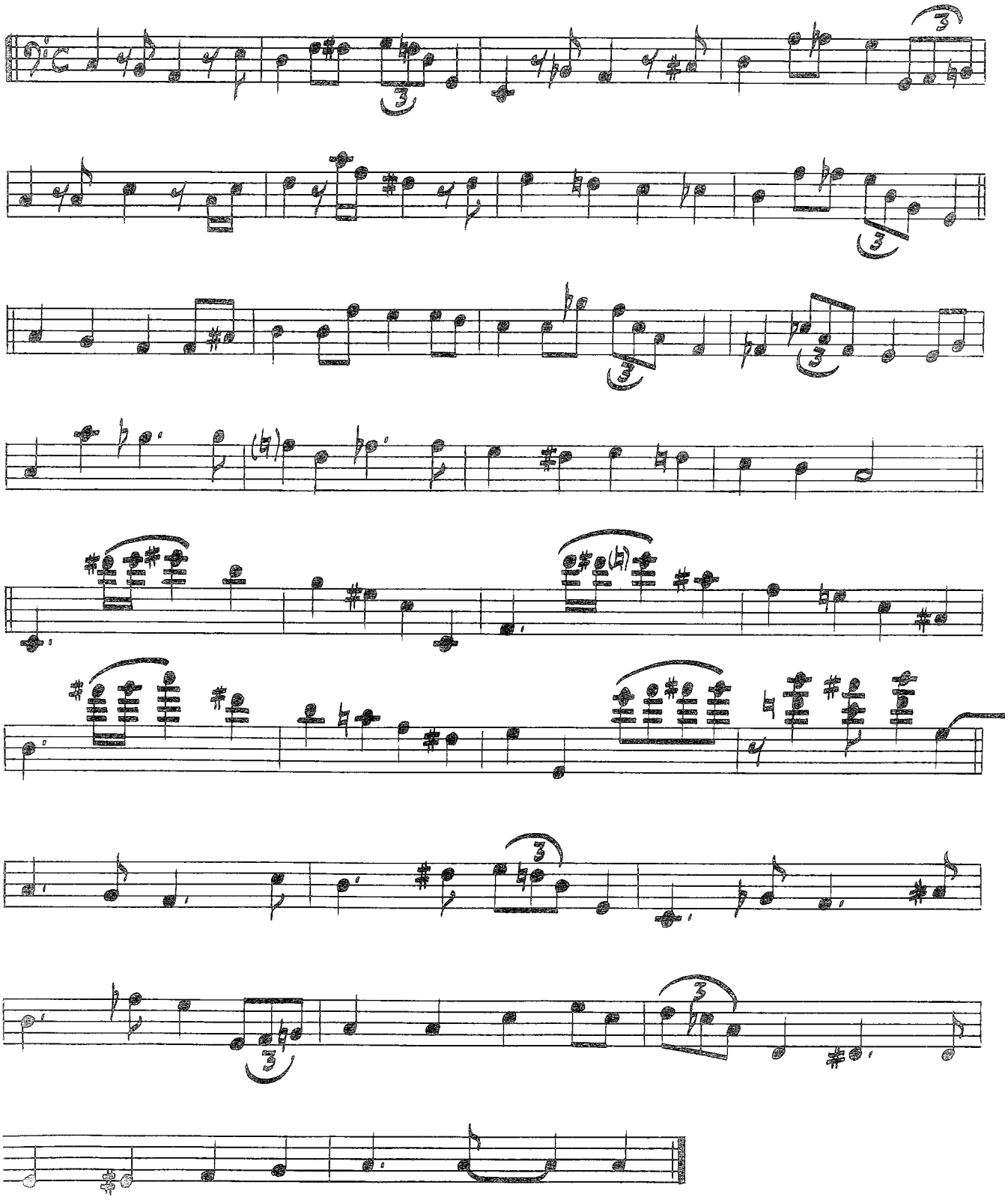
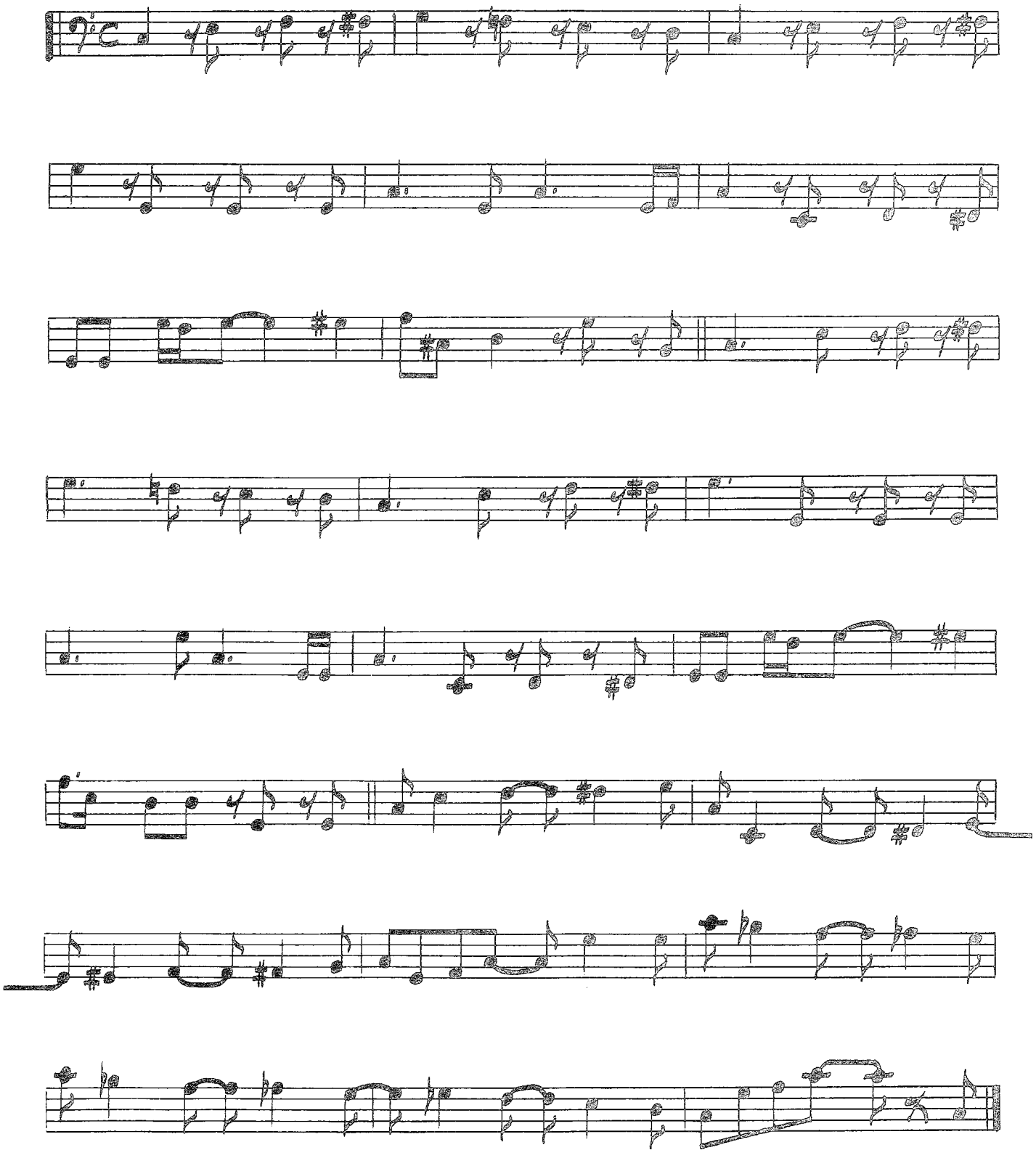

* ♪ in 12/8 = ♩ in 3/4
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 + 10 11 12

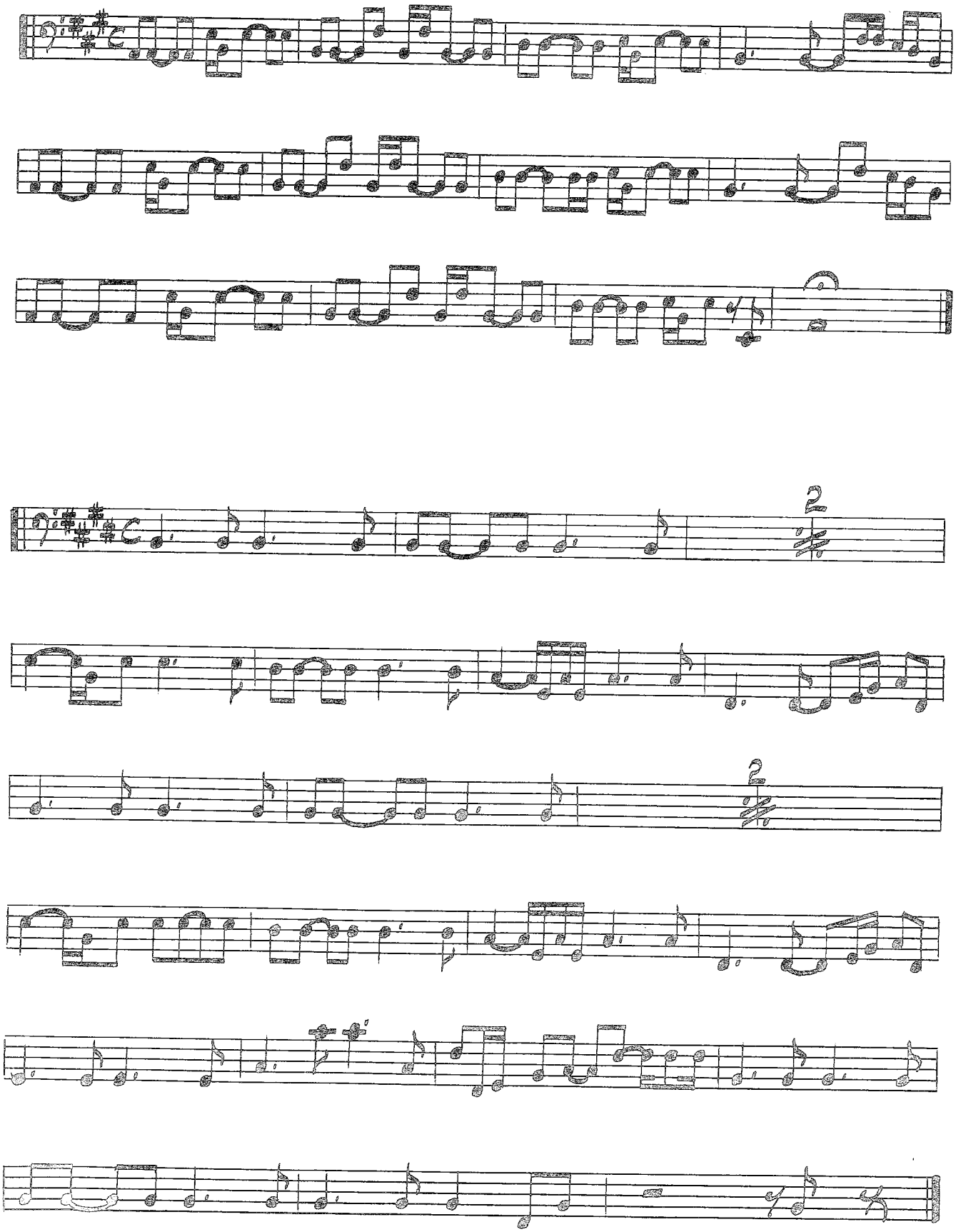

Long Notes

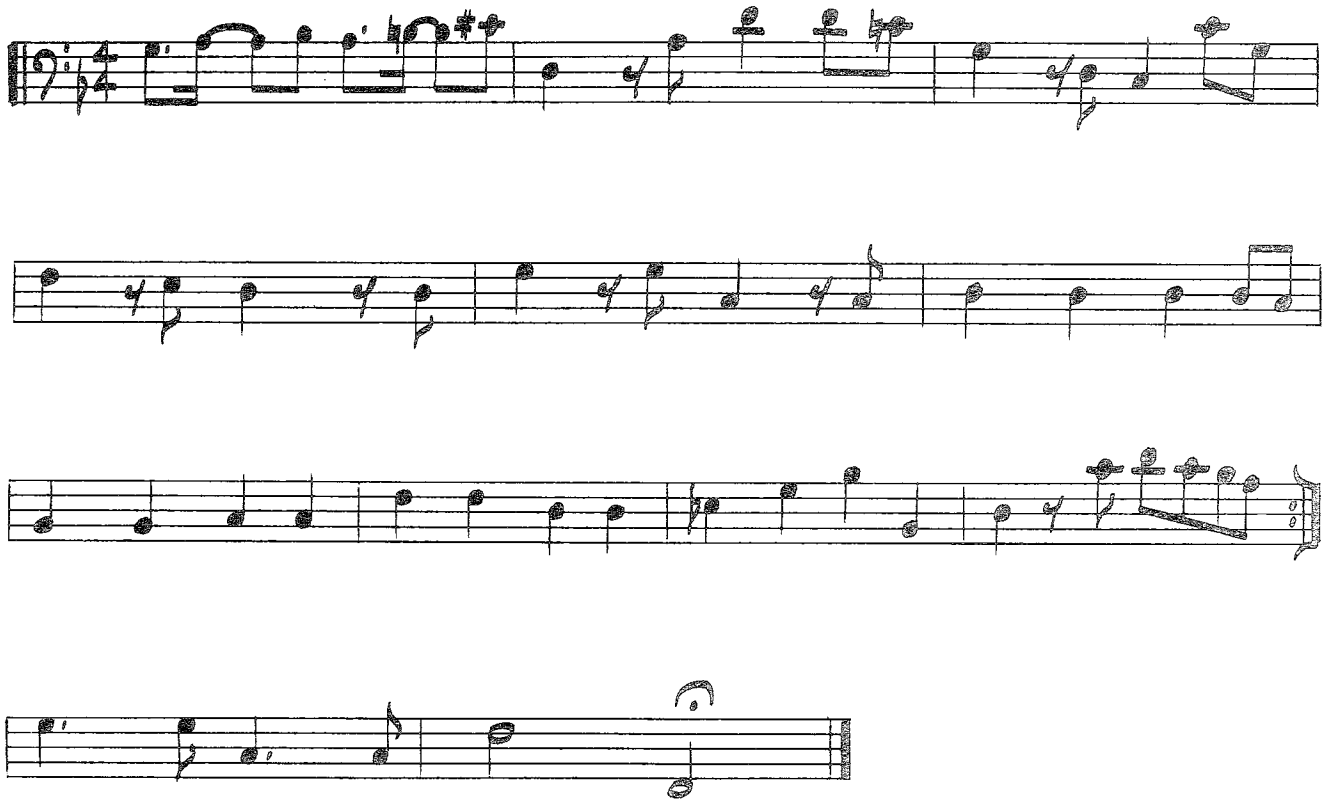


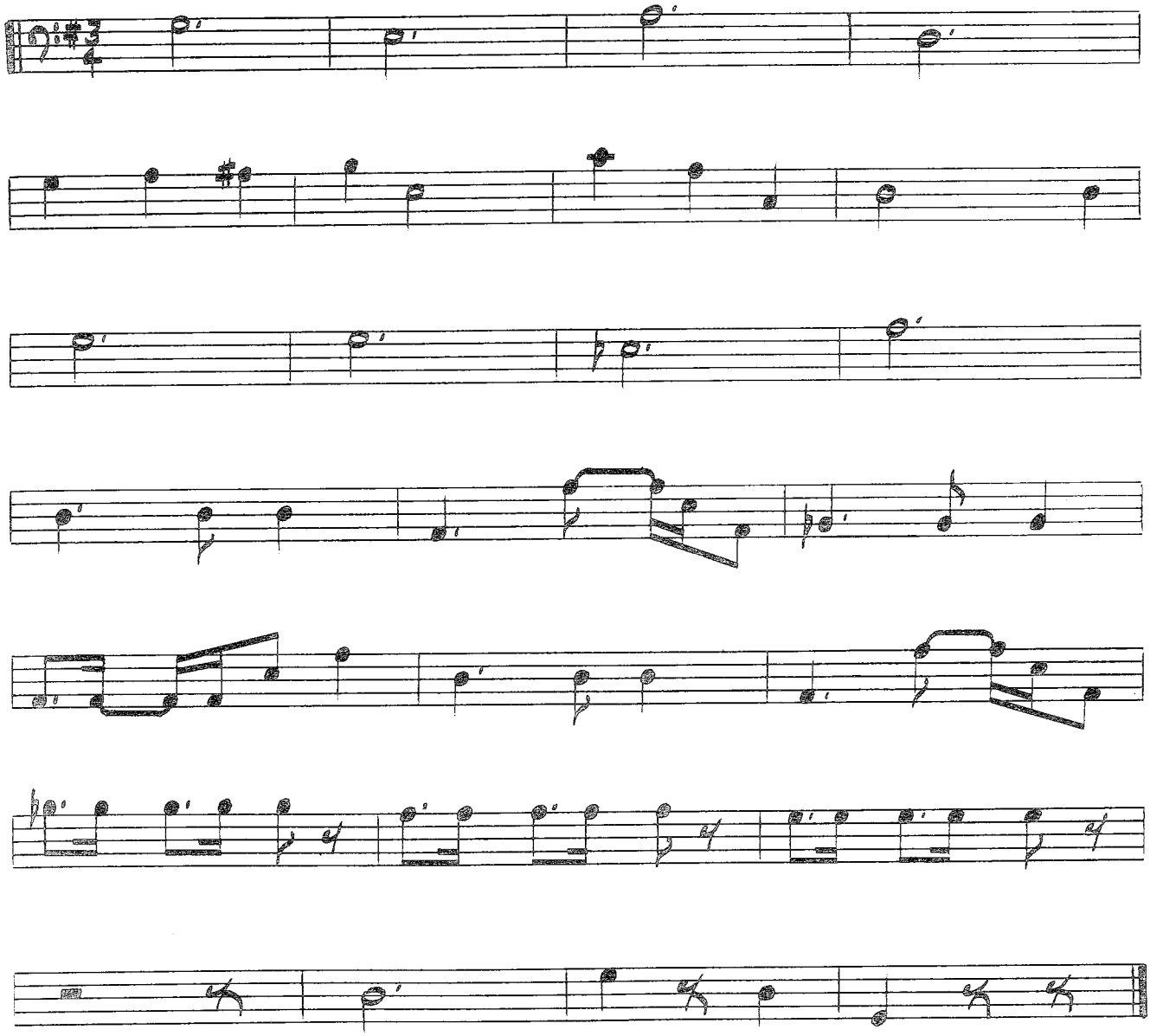


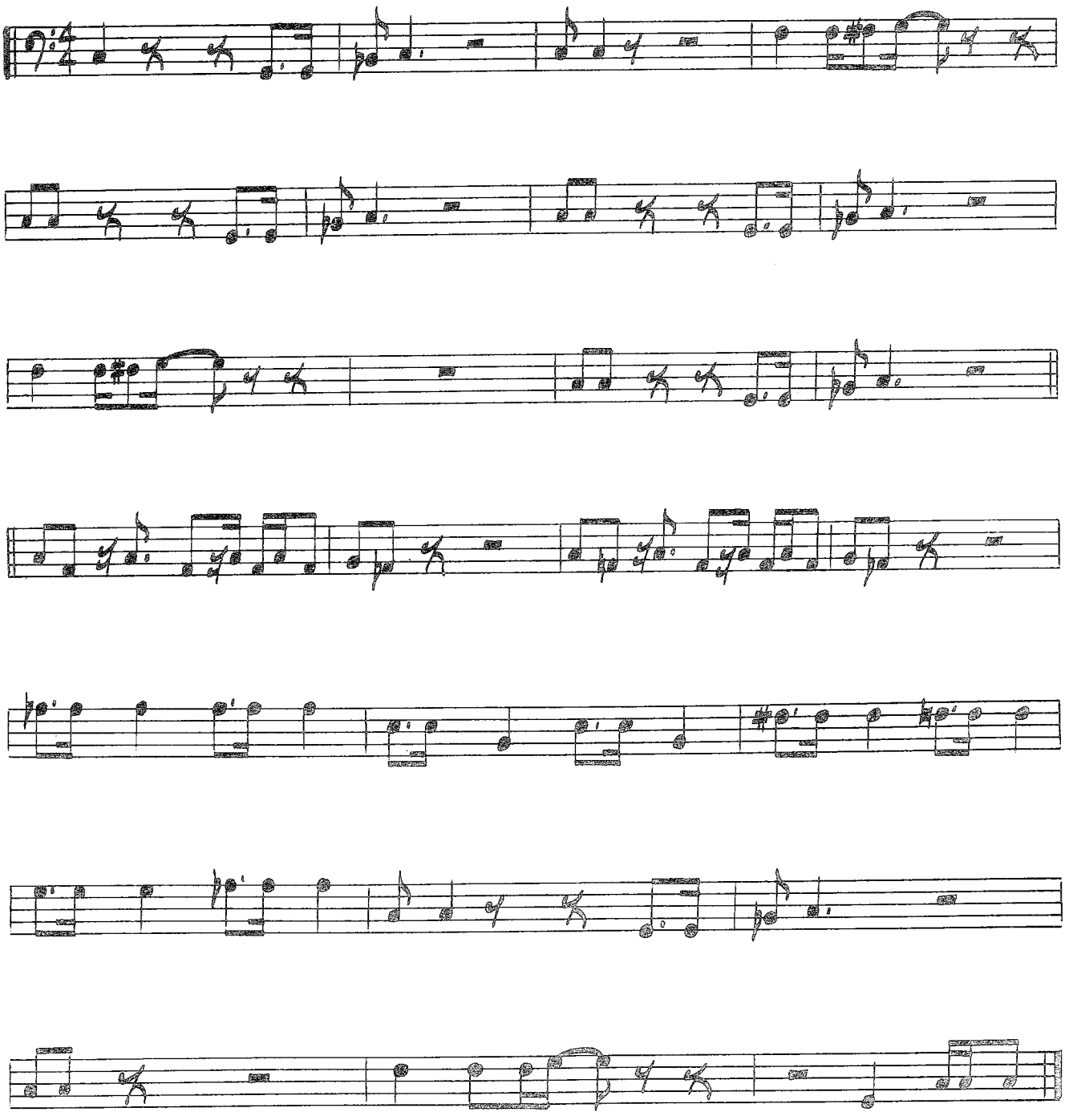


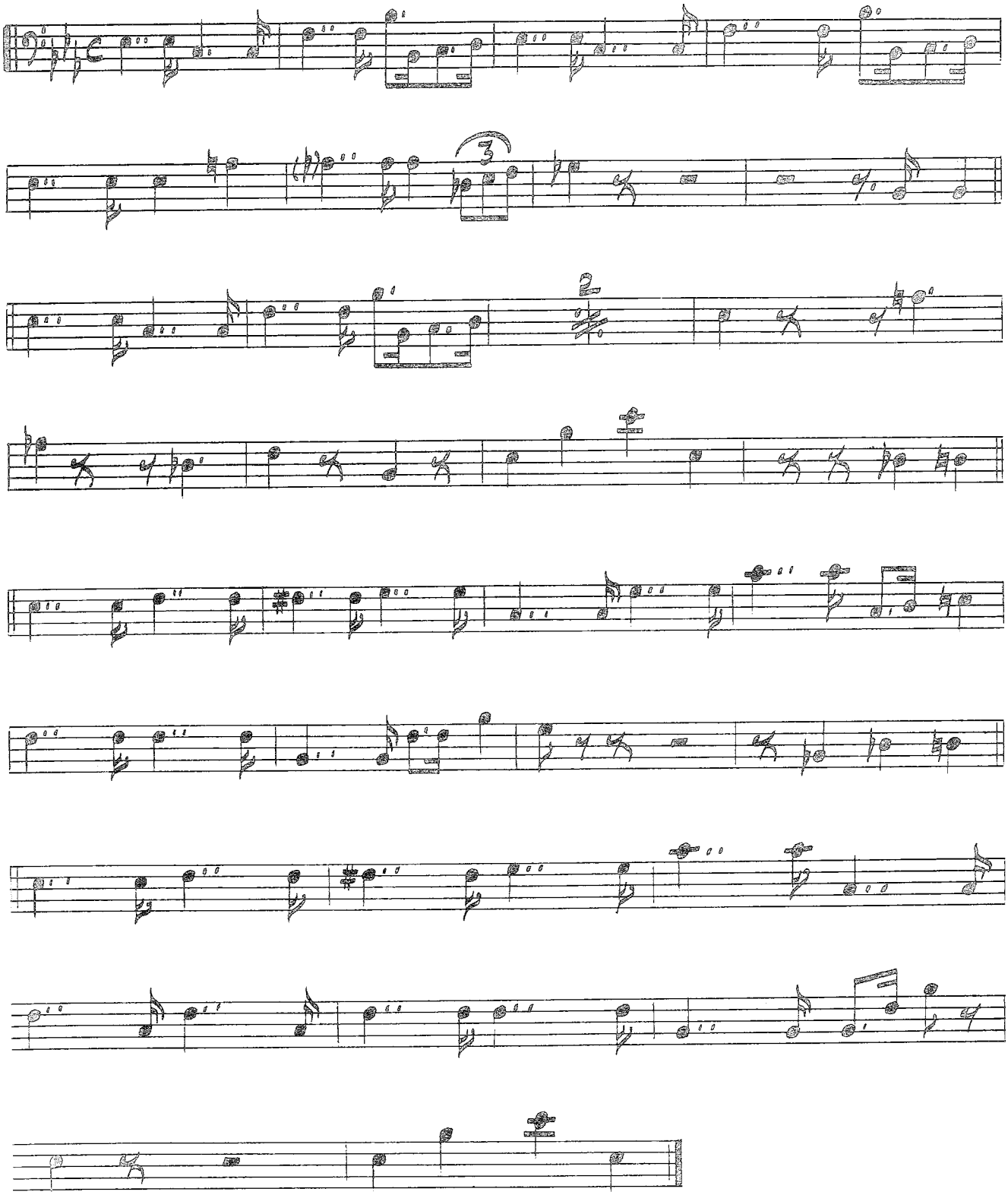


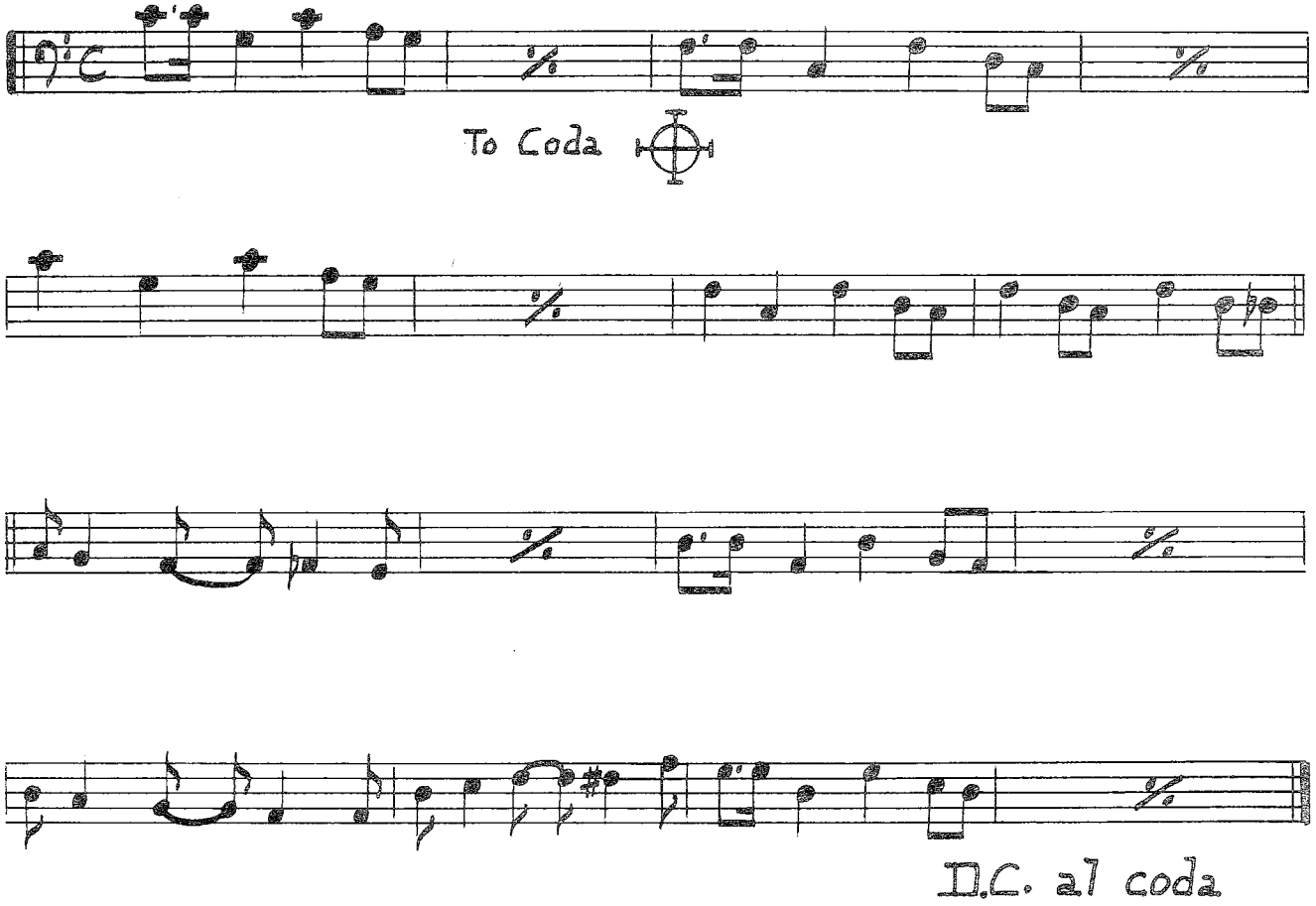




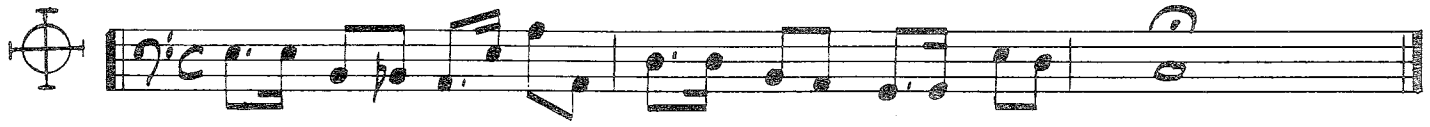


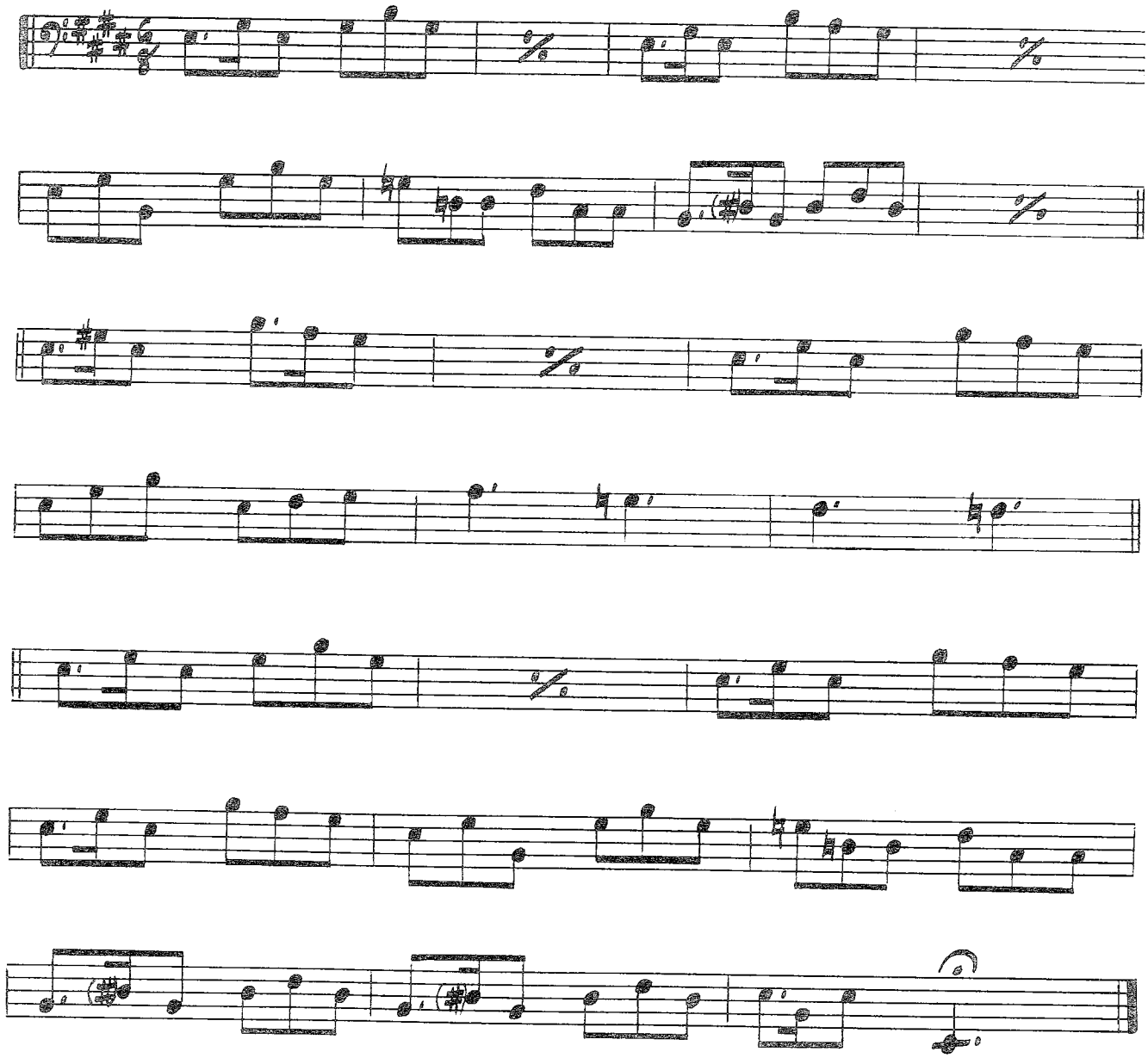


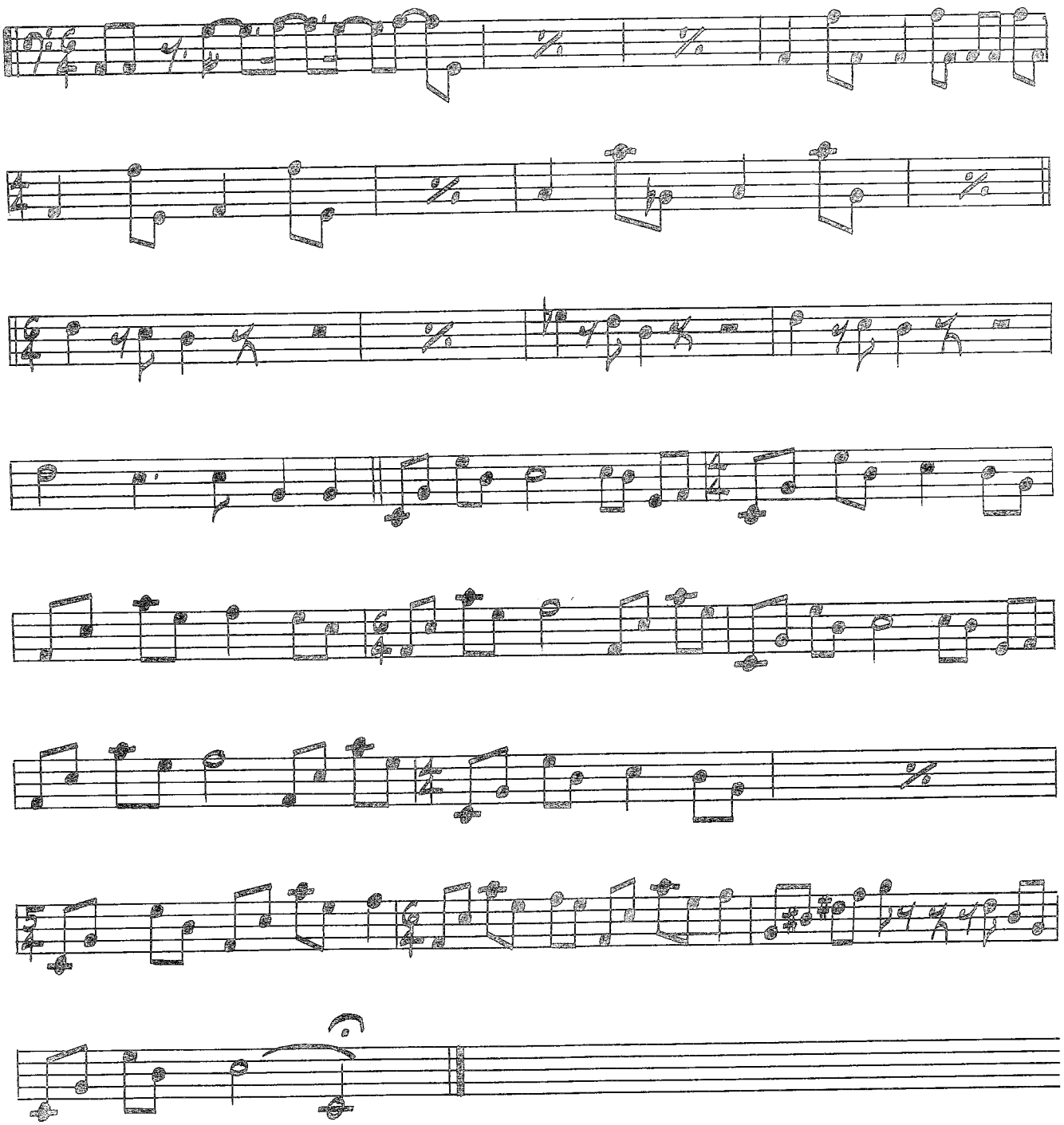


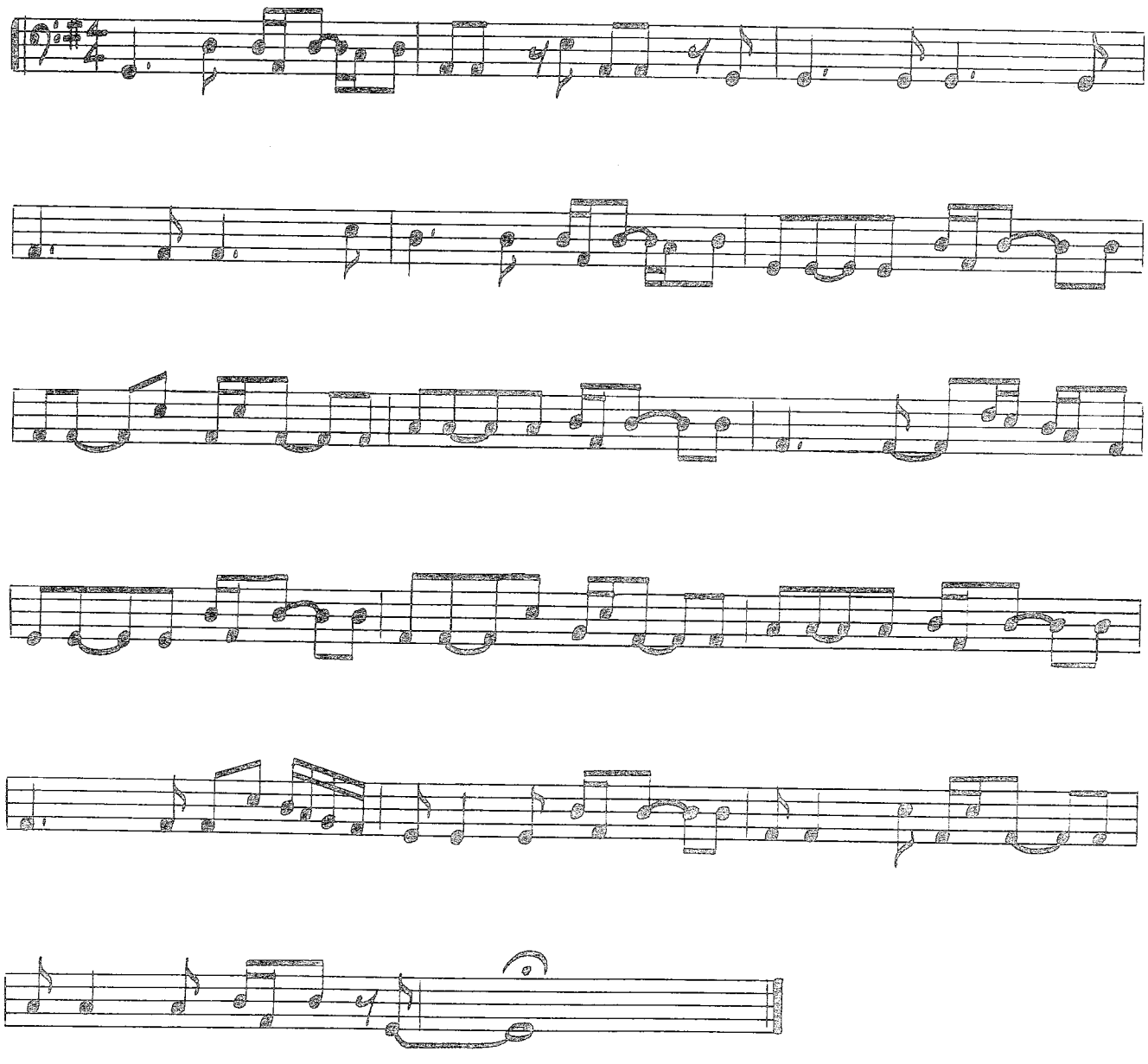


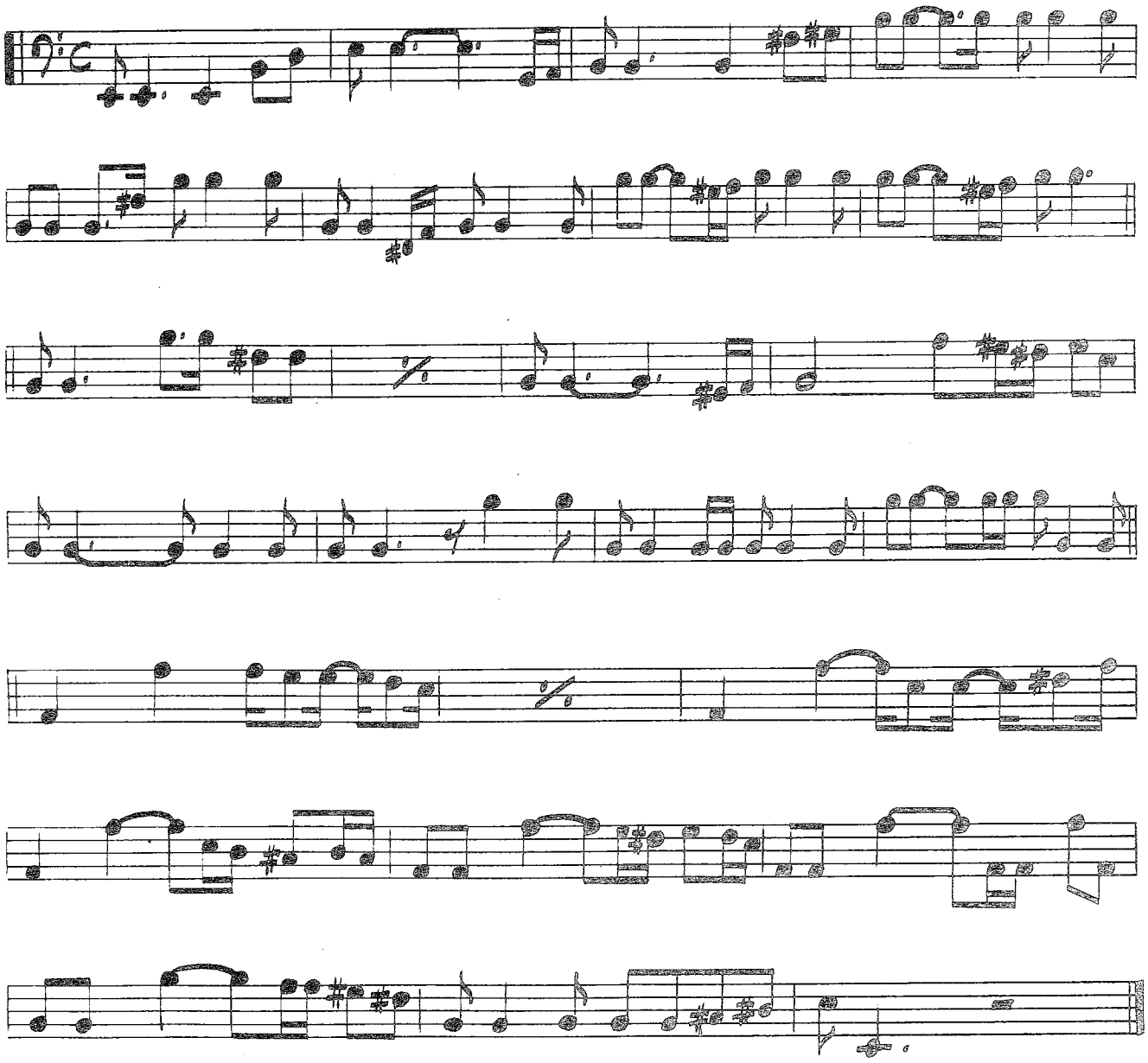
Coda

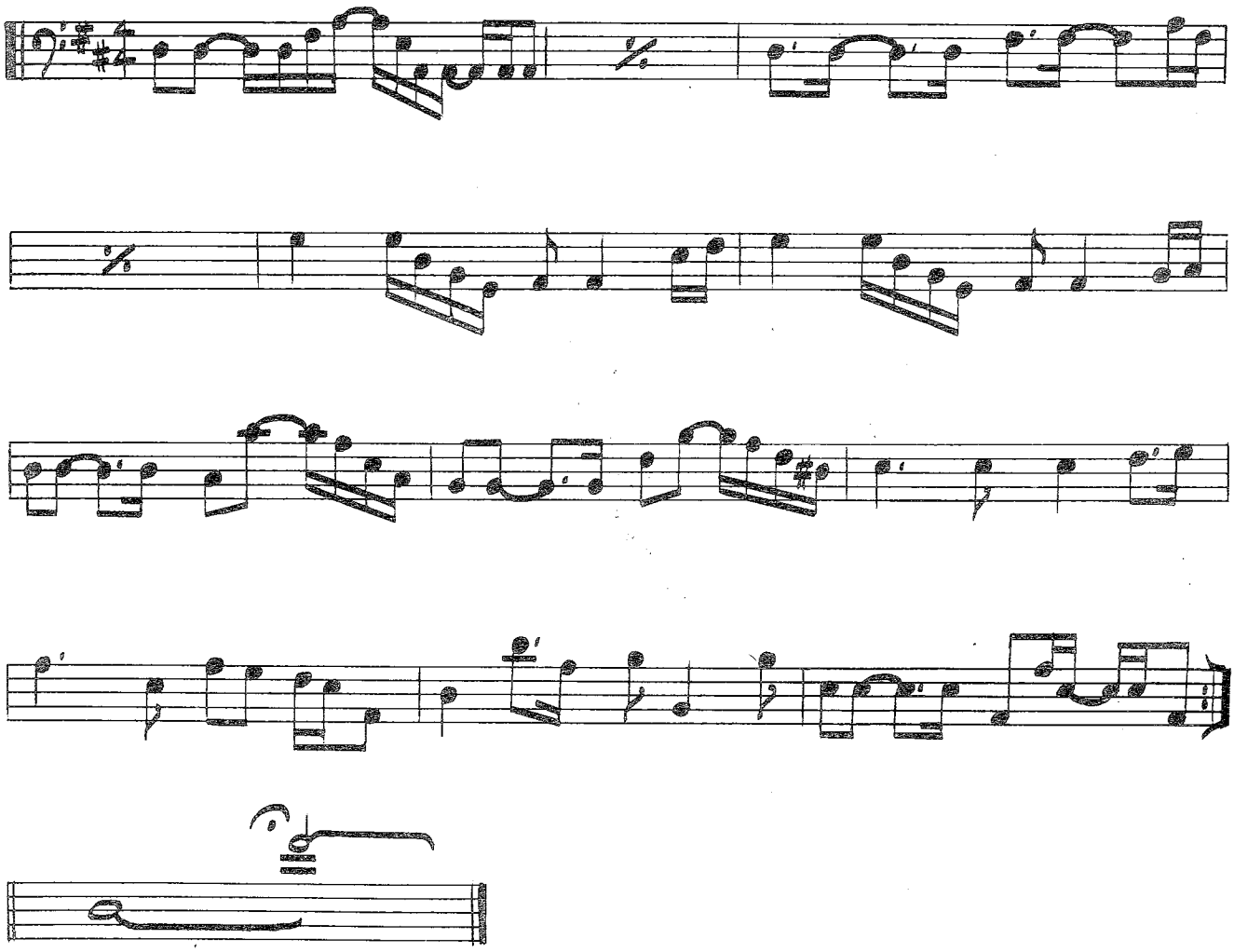


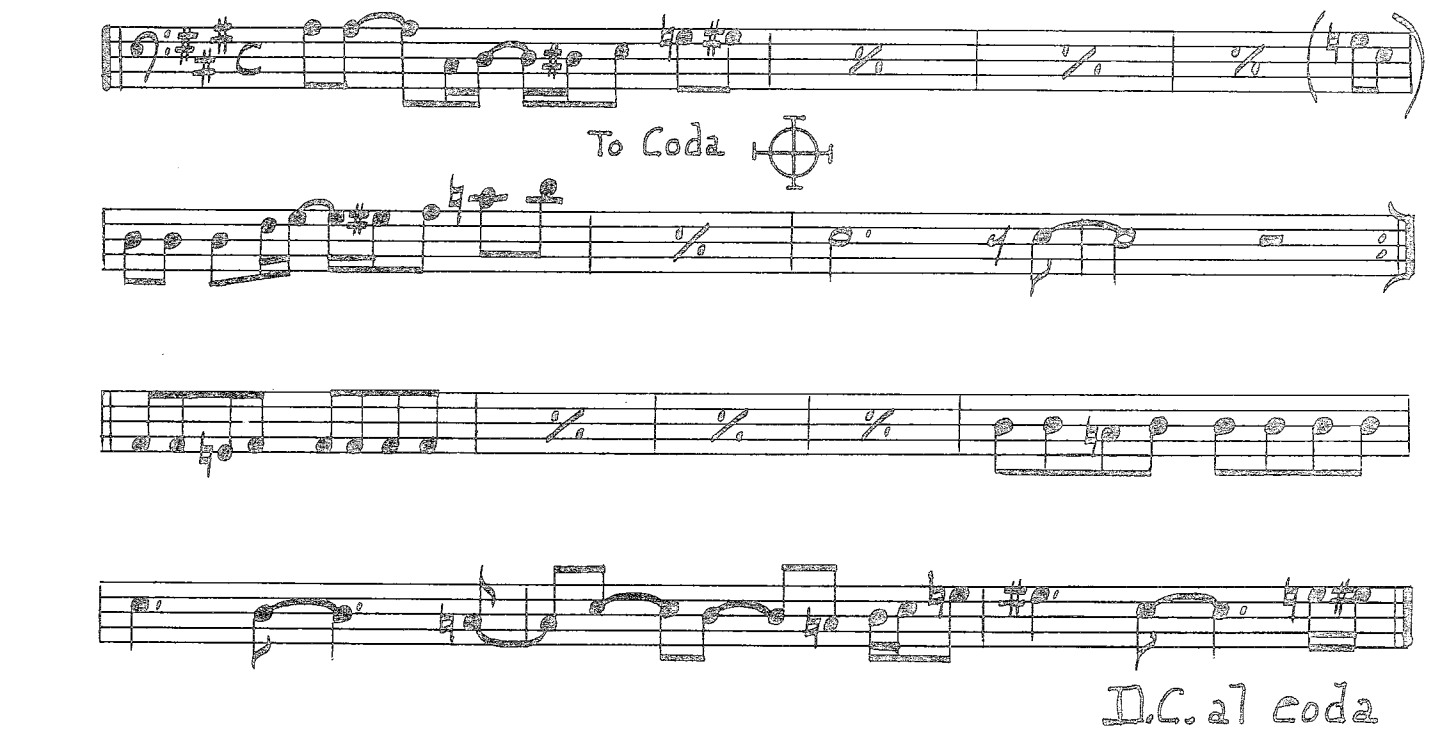


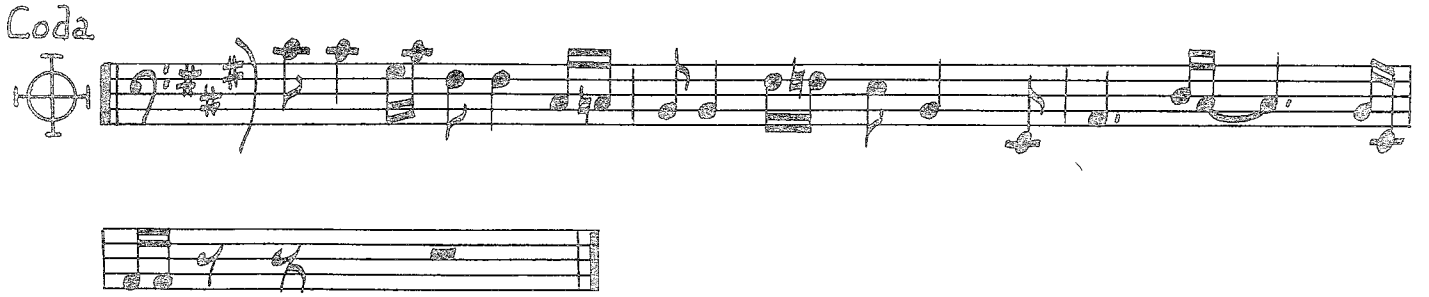









To Coda
D.C. al coda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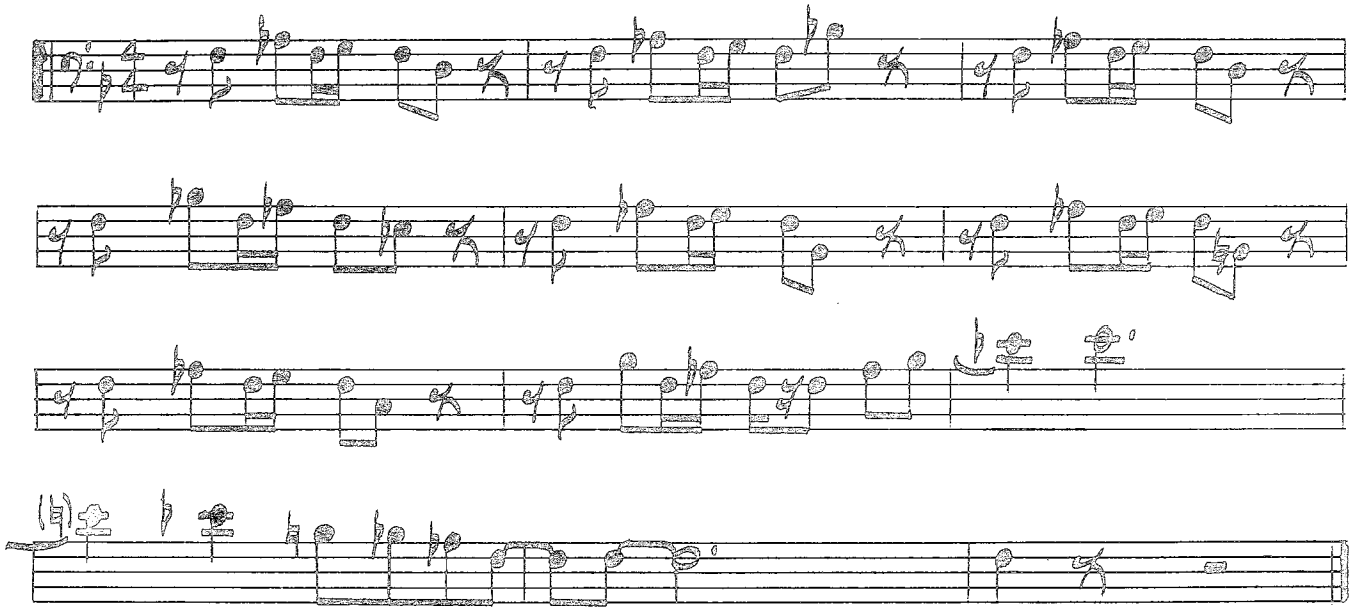
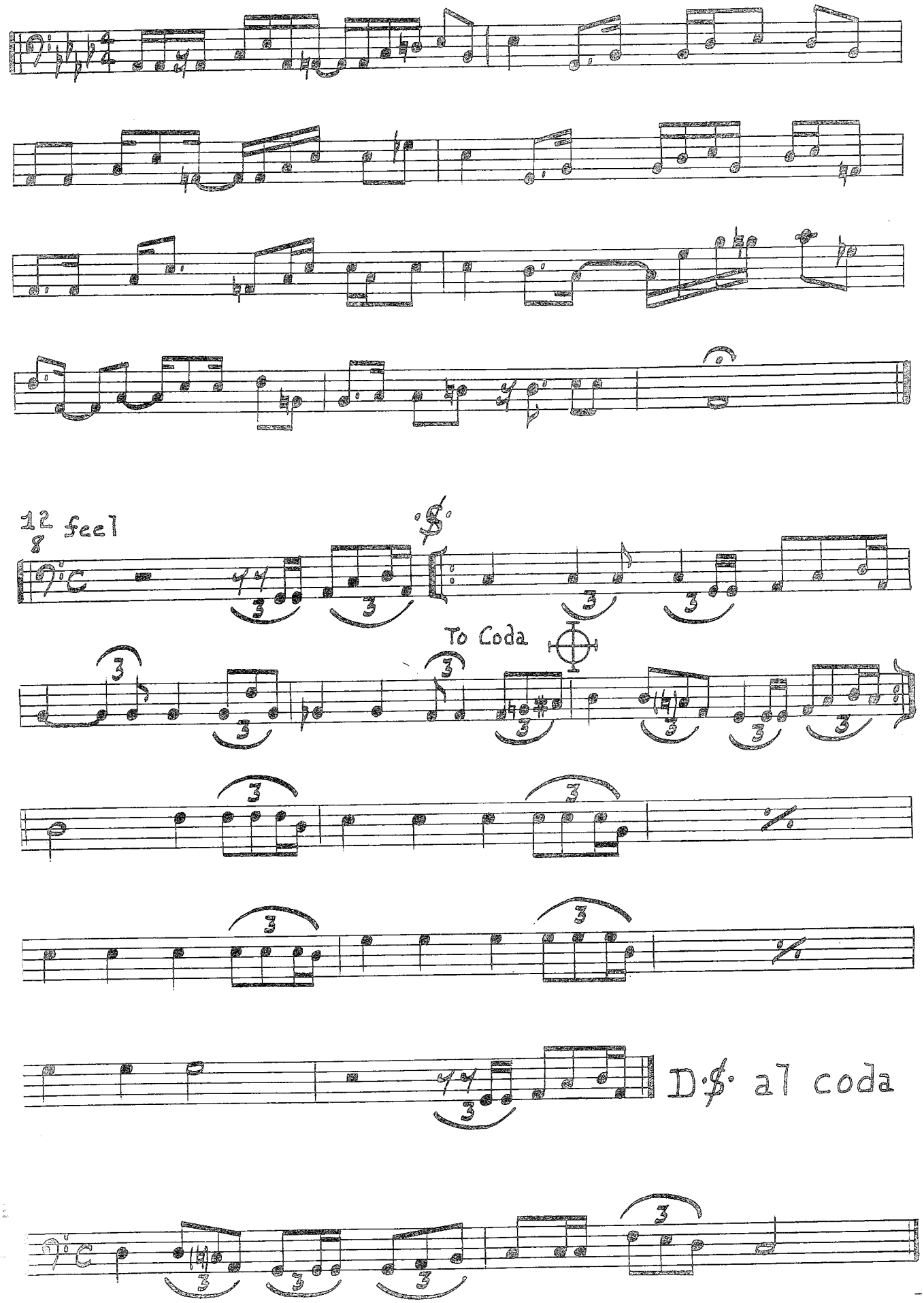
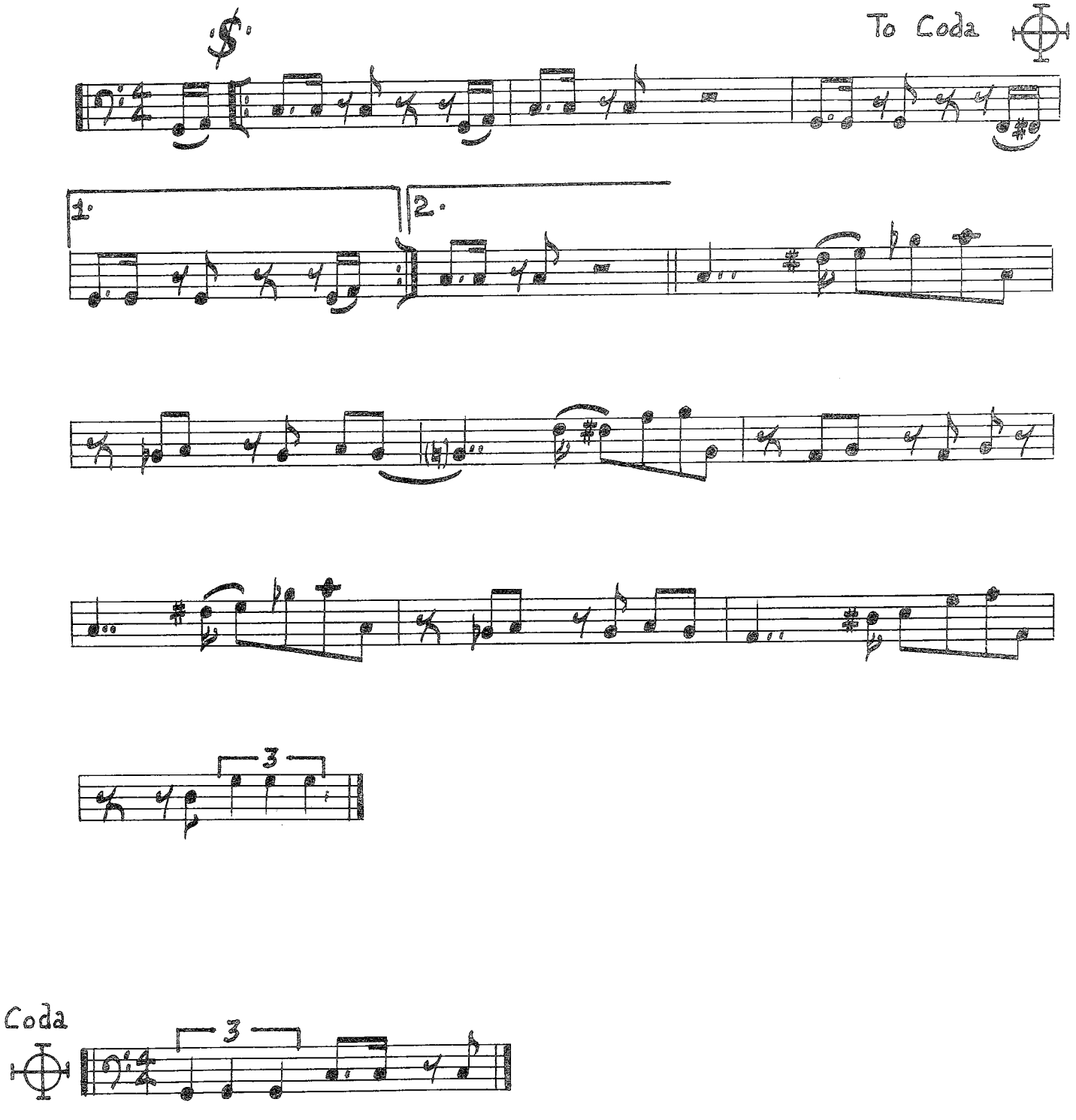
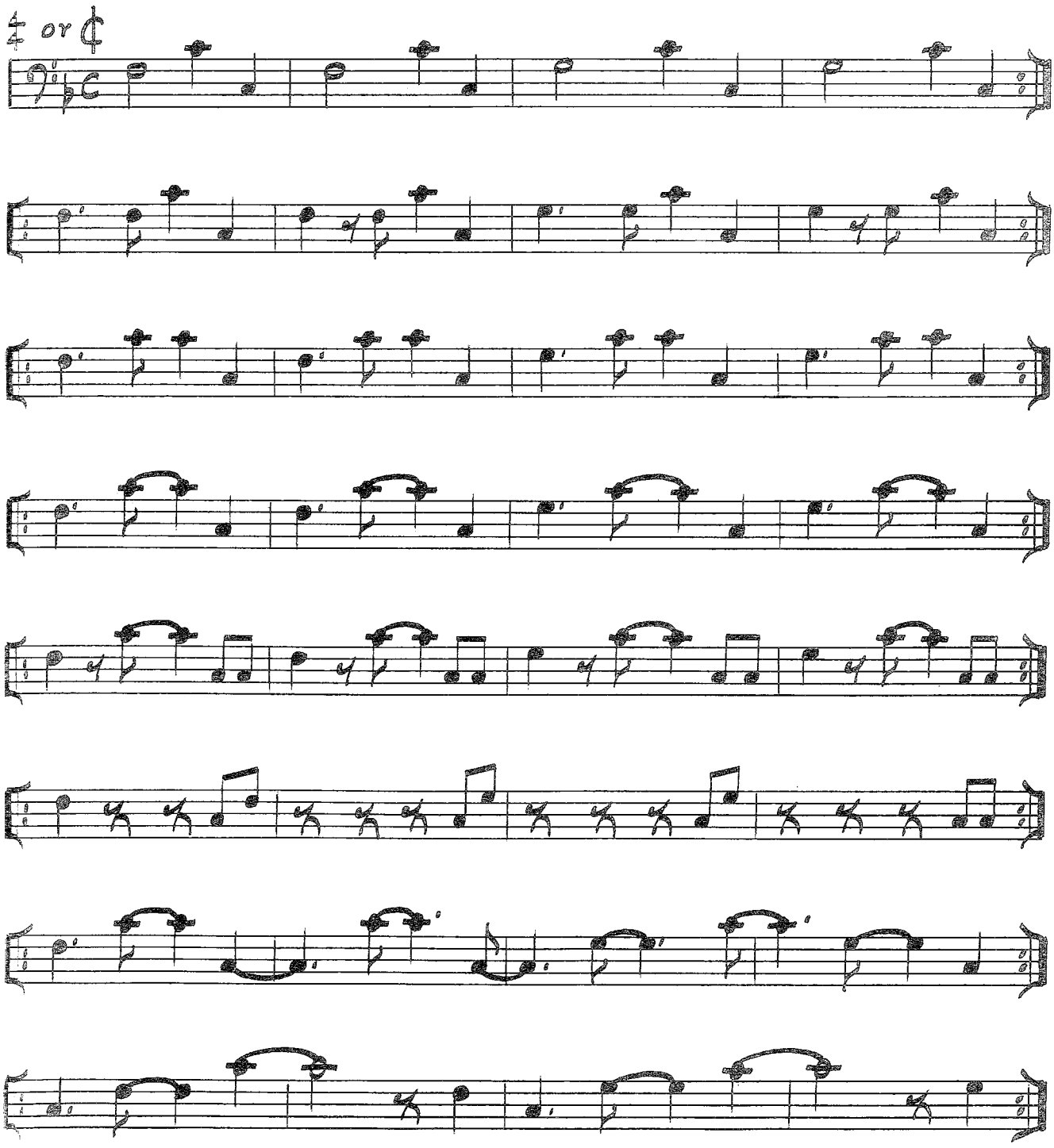


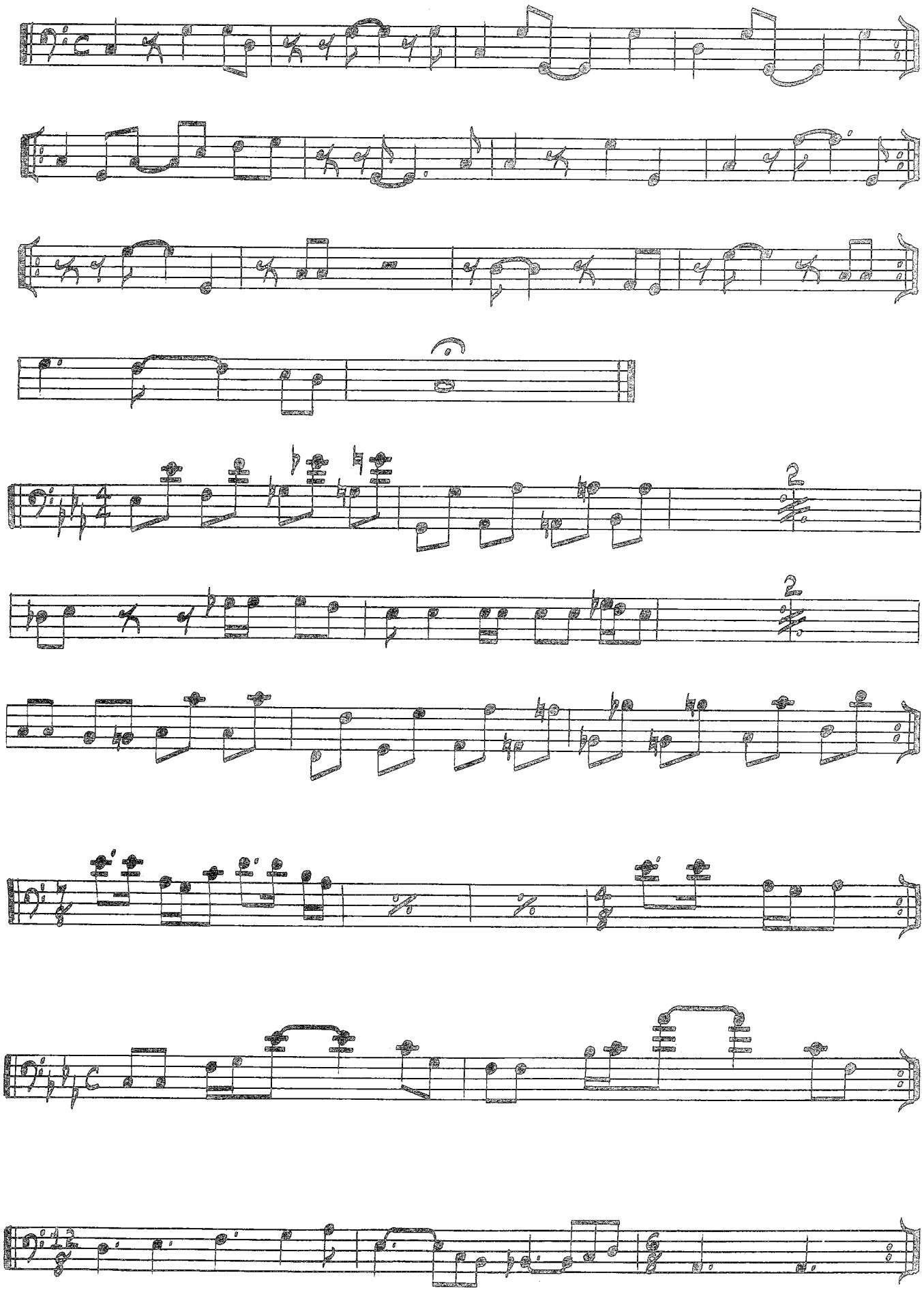

12/8 feel
To Coda
D.S. al coda

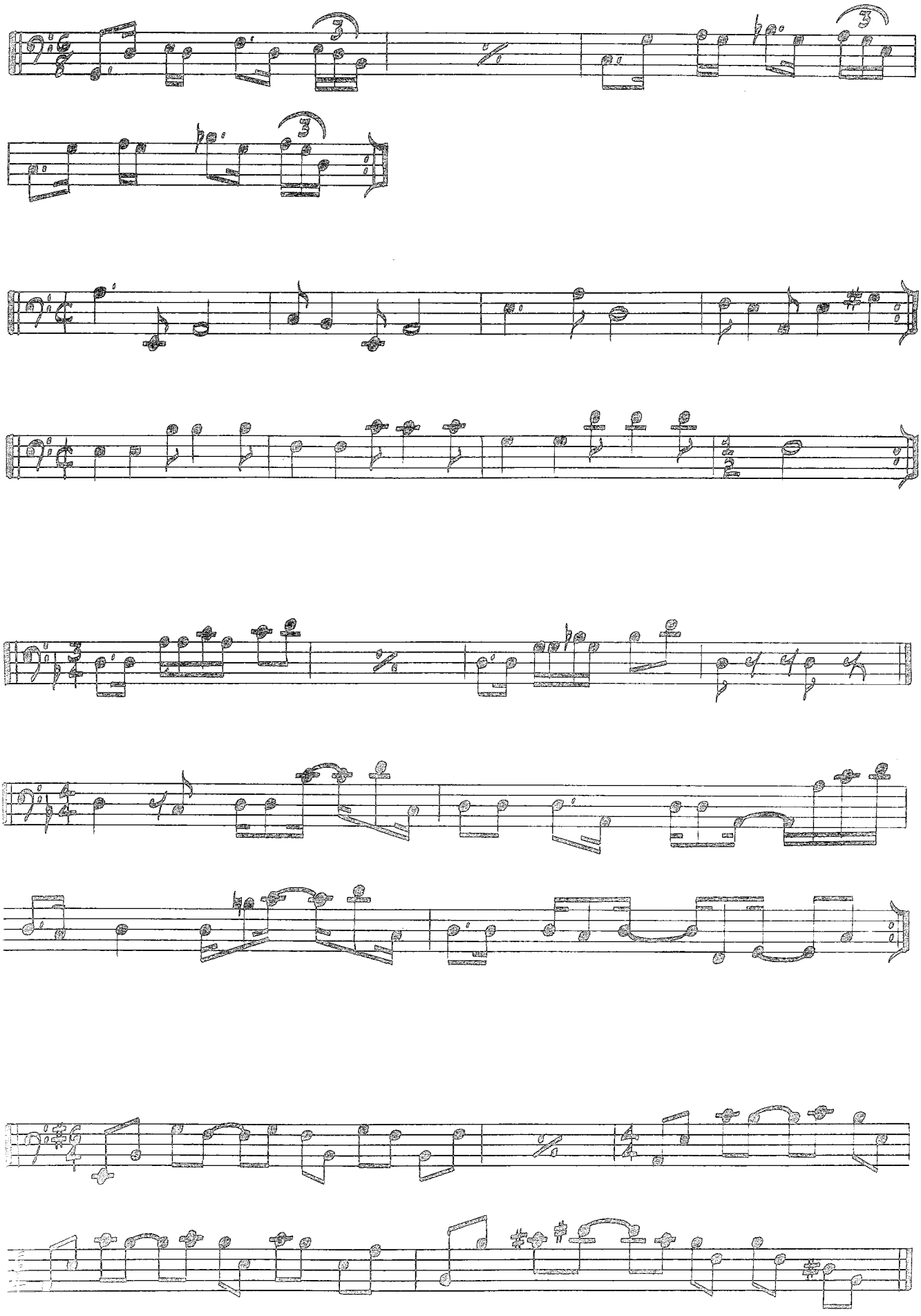

To Coda
1.
2.
3
Coda
3

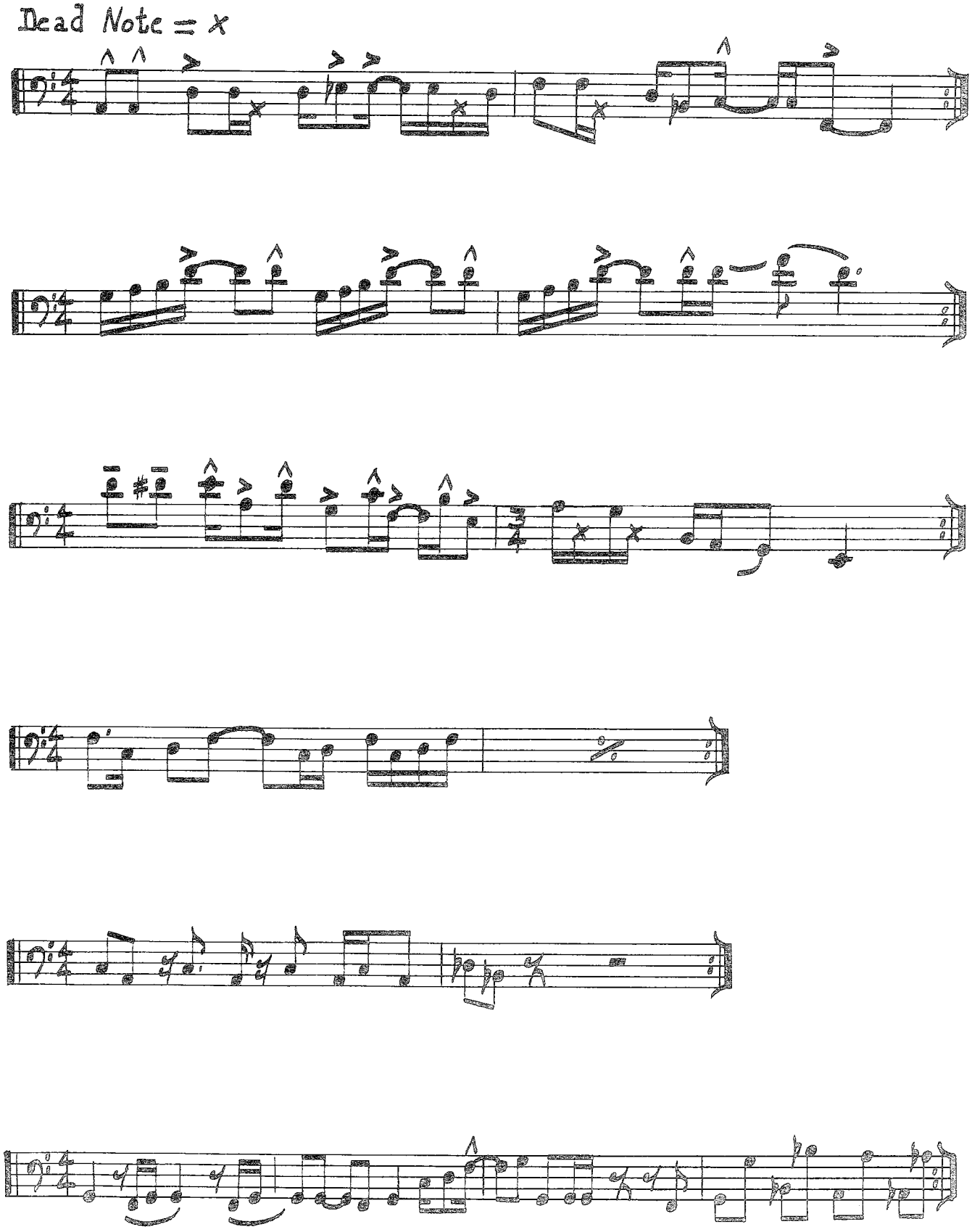
SECTION IV

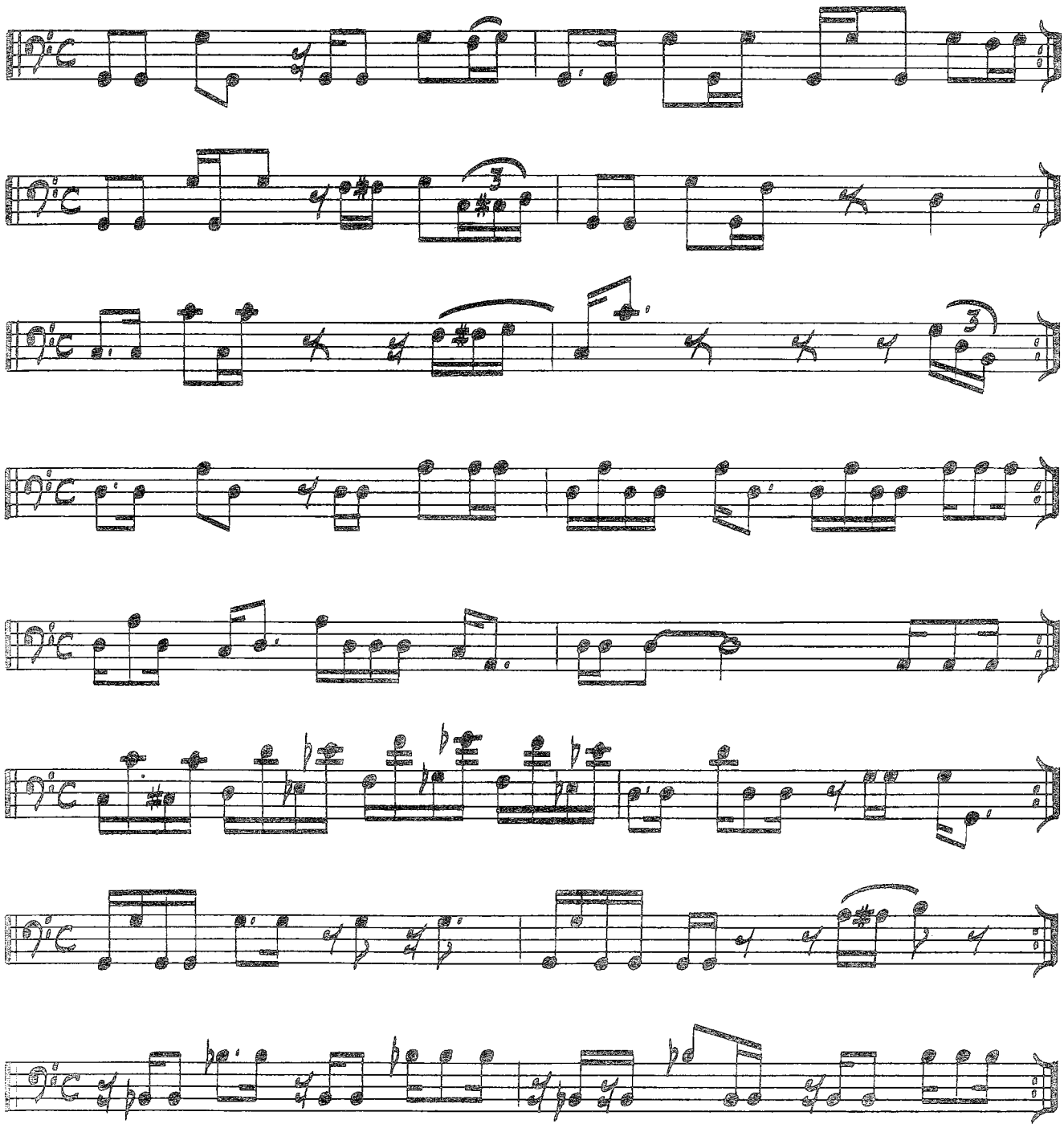
Vamps, Repetitive Phrases Using Moderately Active Rhythms.





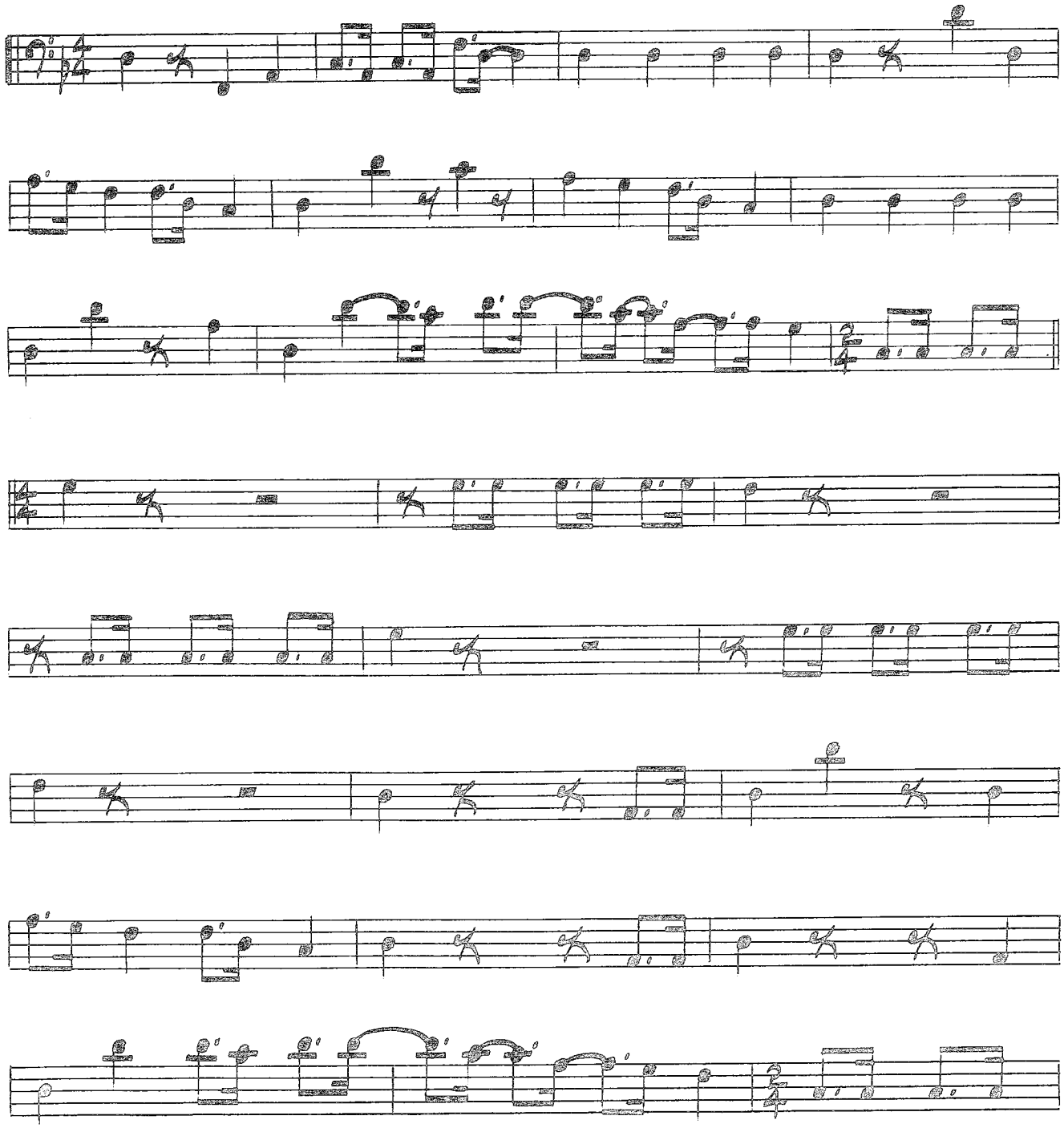


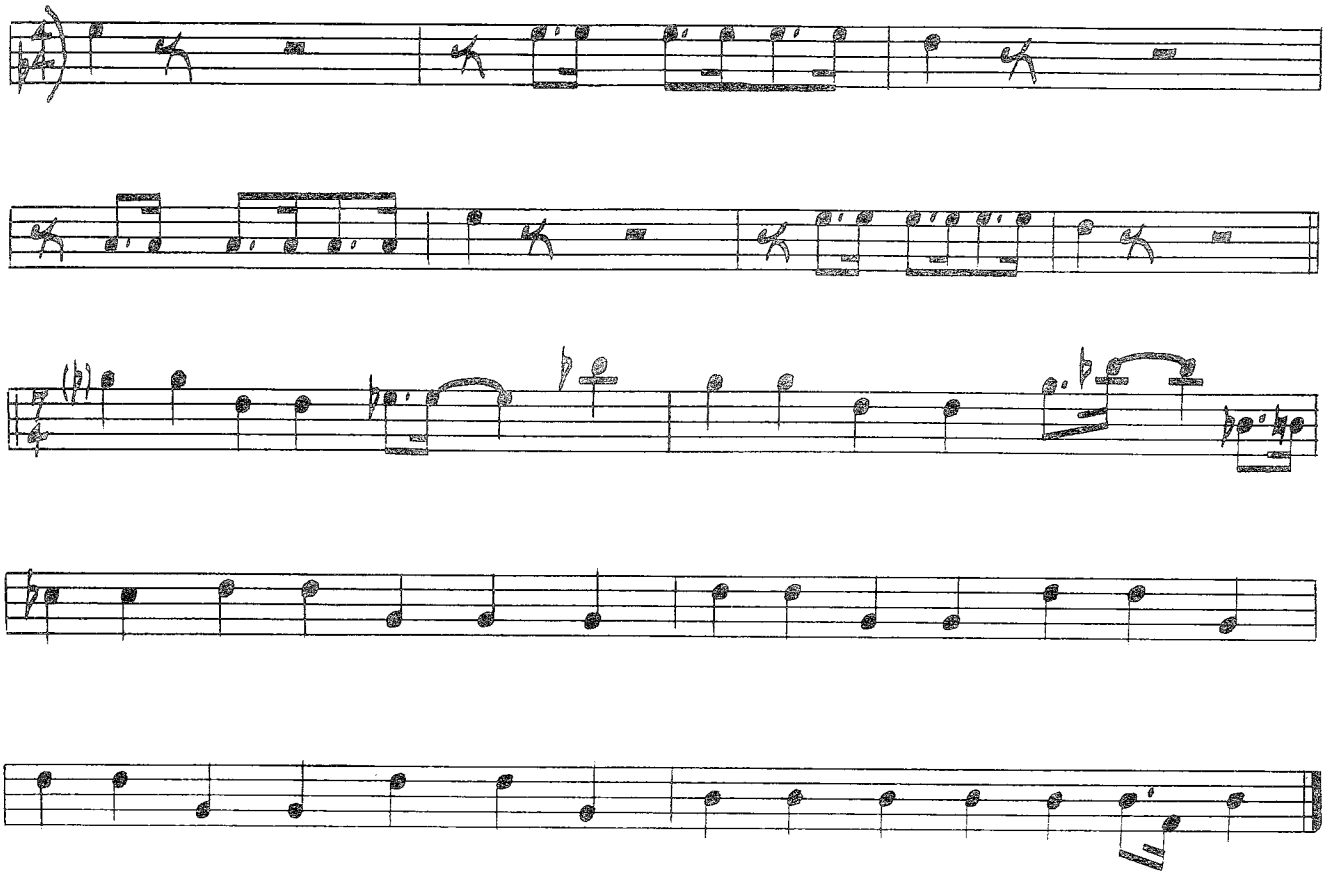

Dead Note = x

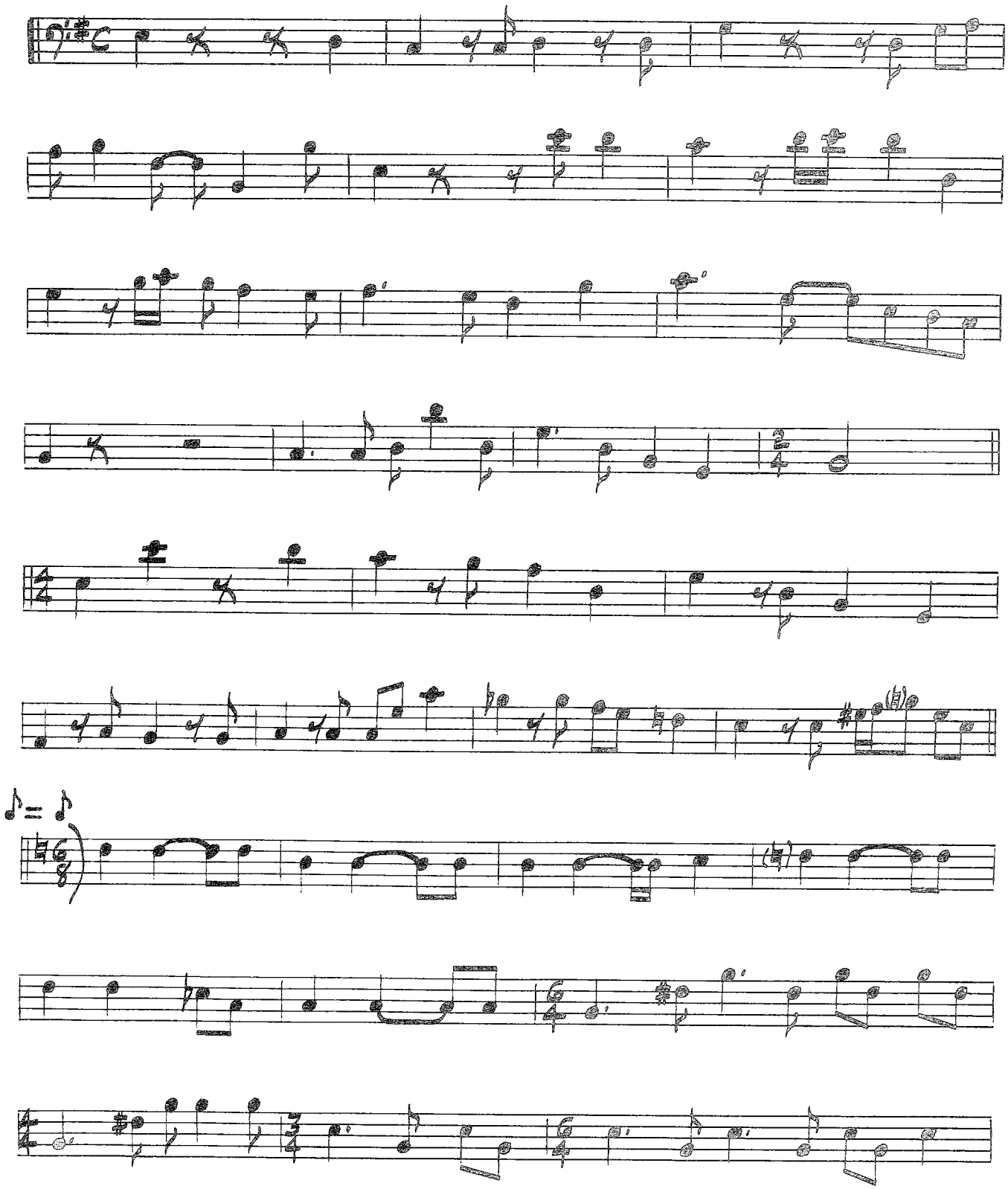


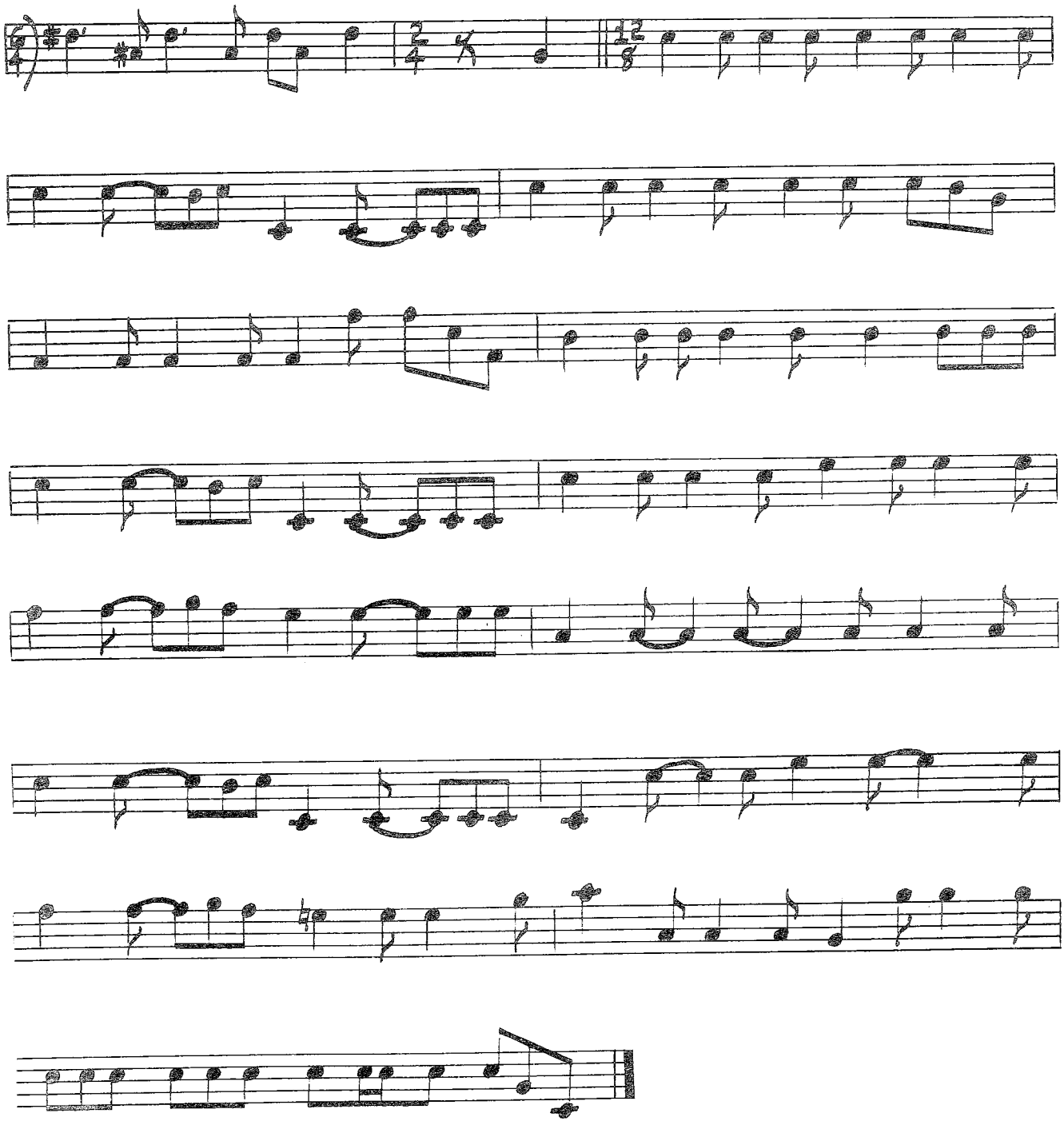
SECTION V

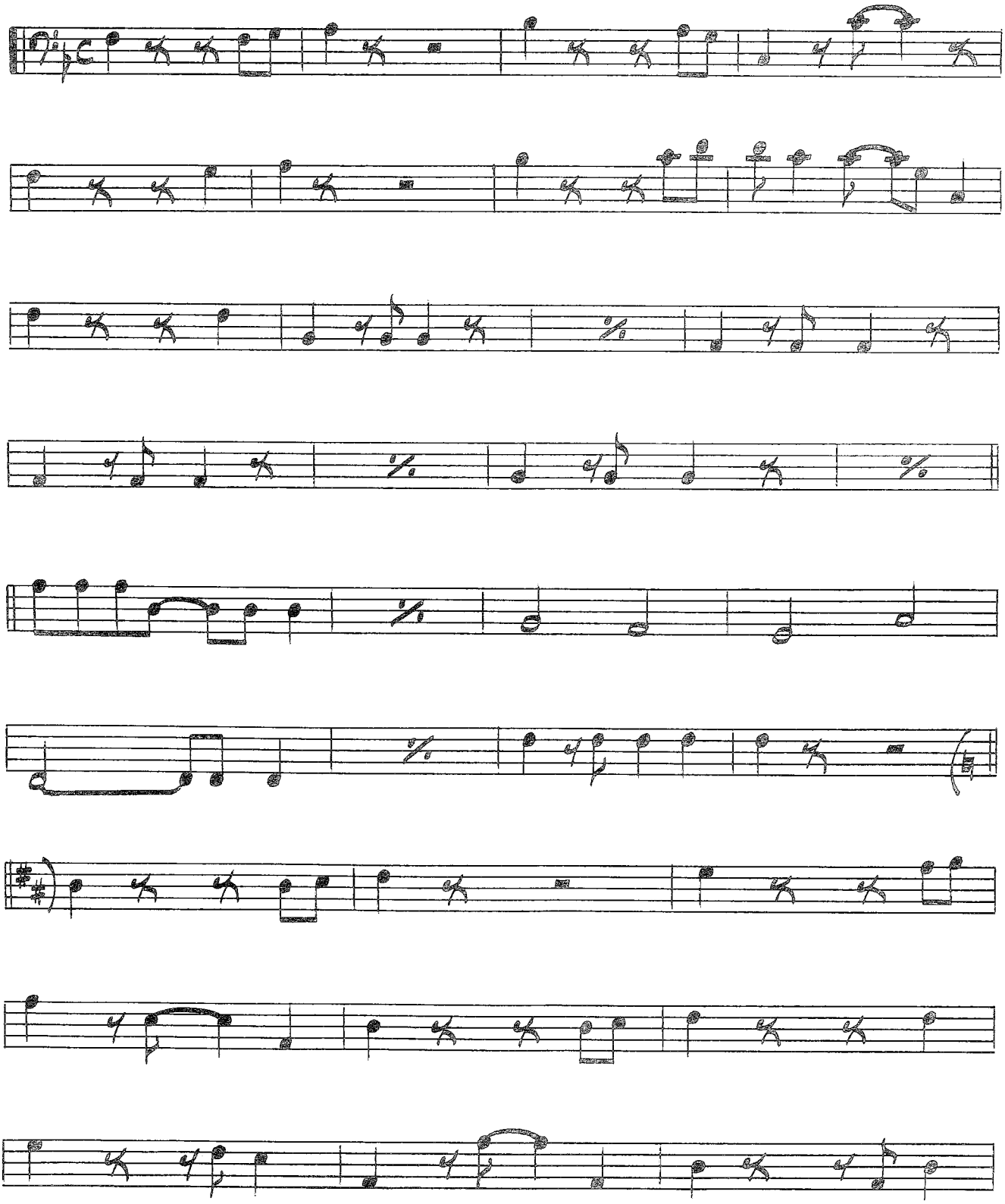
Reading Exercises. Varied Styles of Bass Lines and Rhythms
Found in Professional Performing Situations.

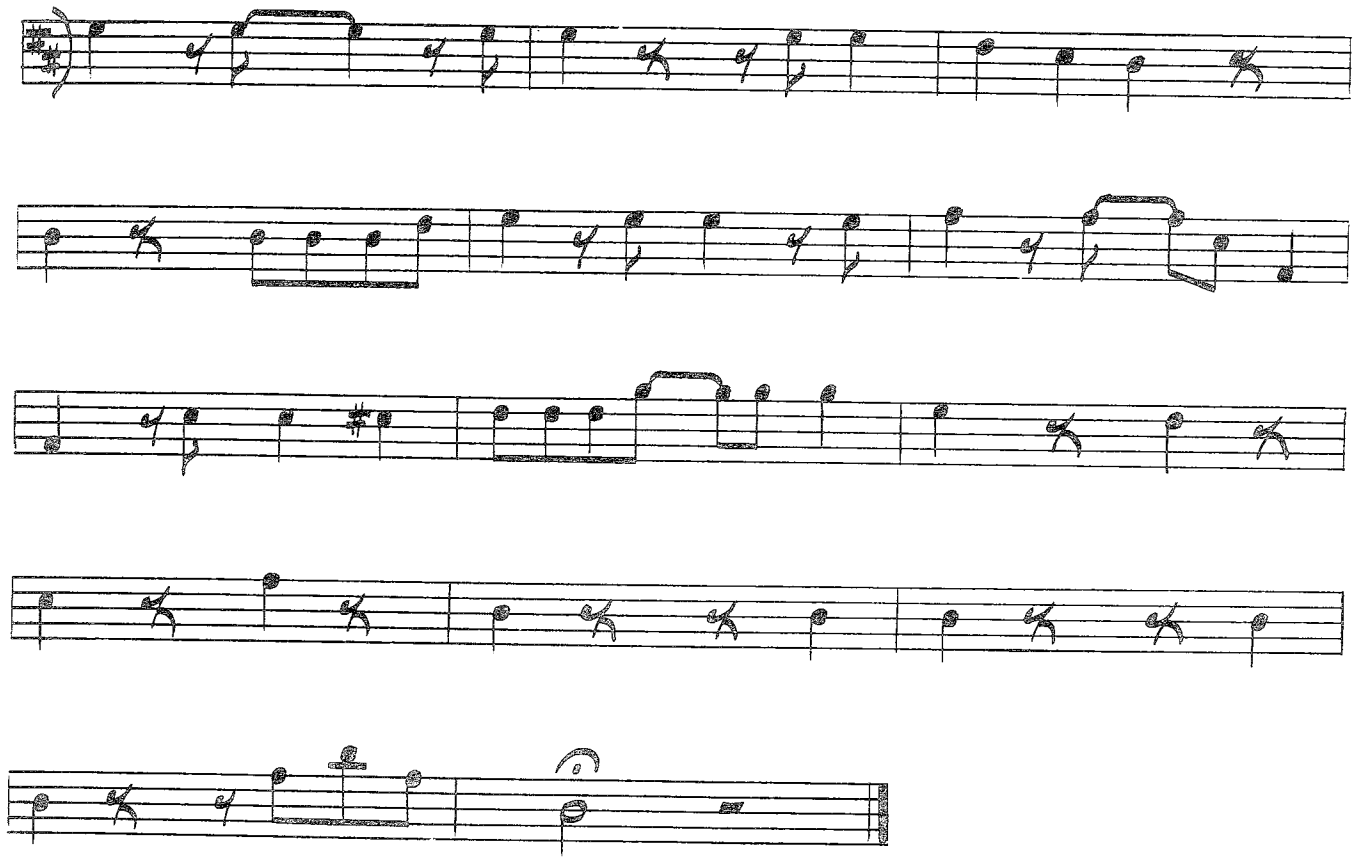


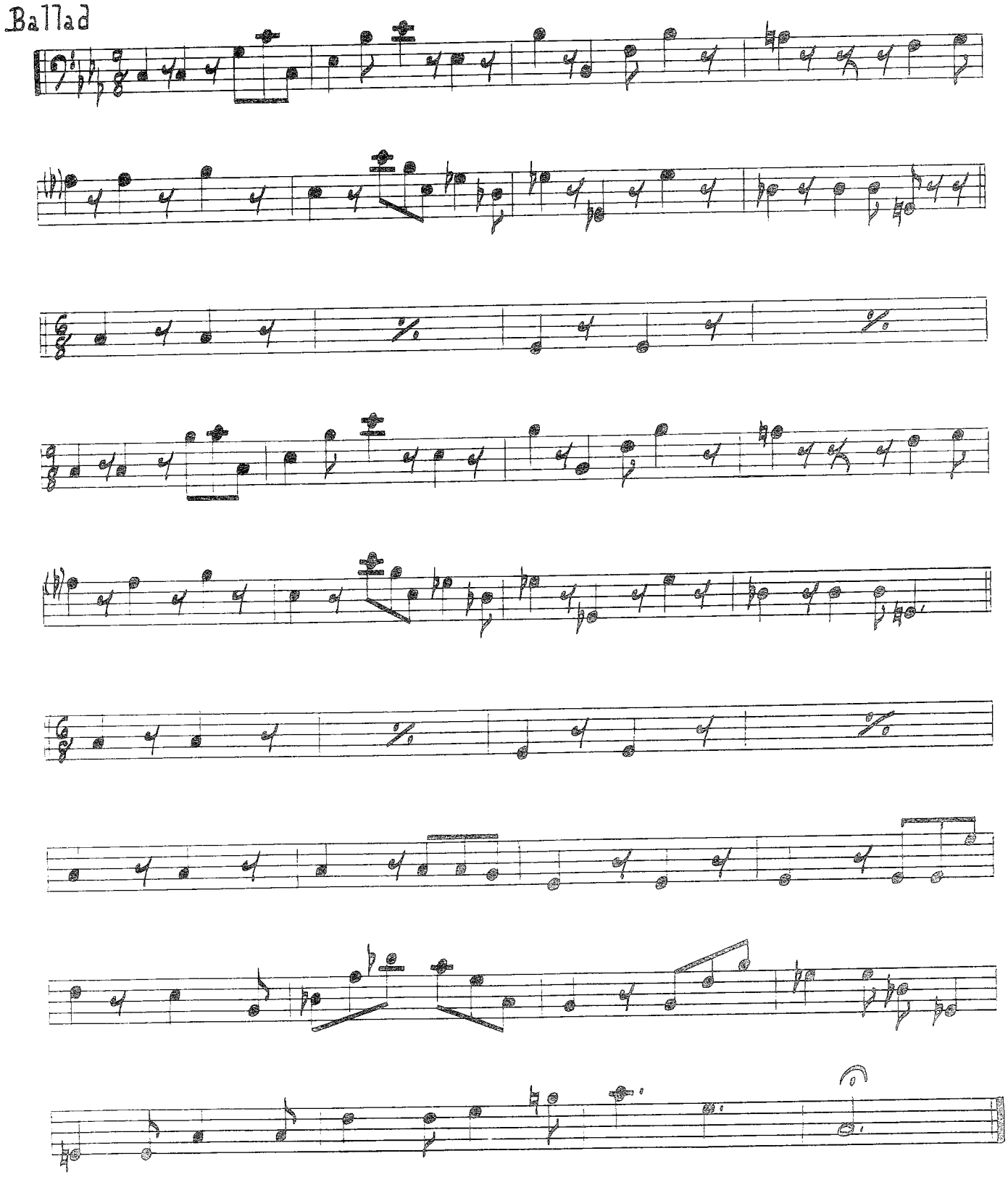


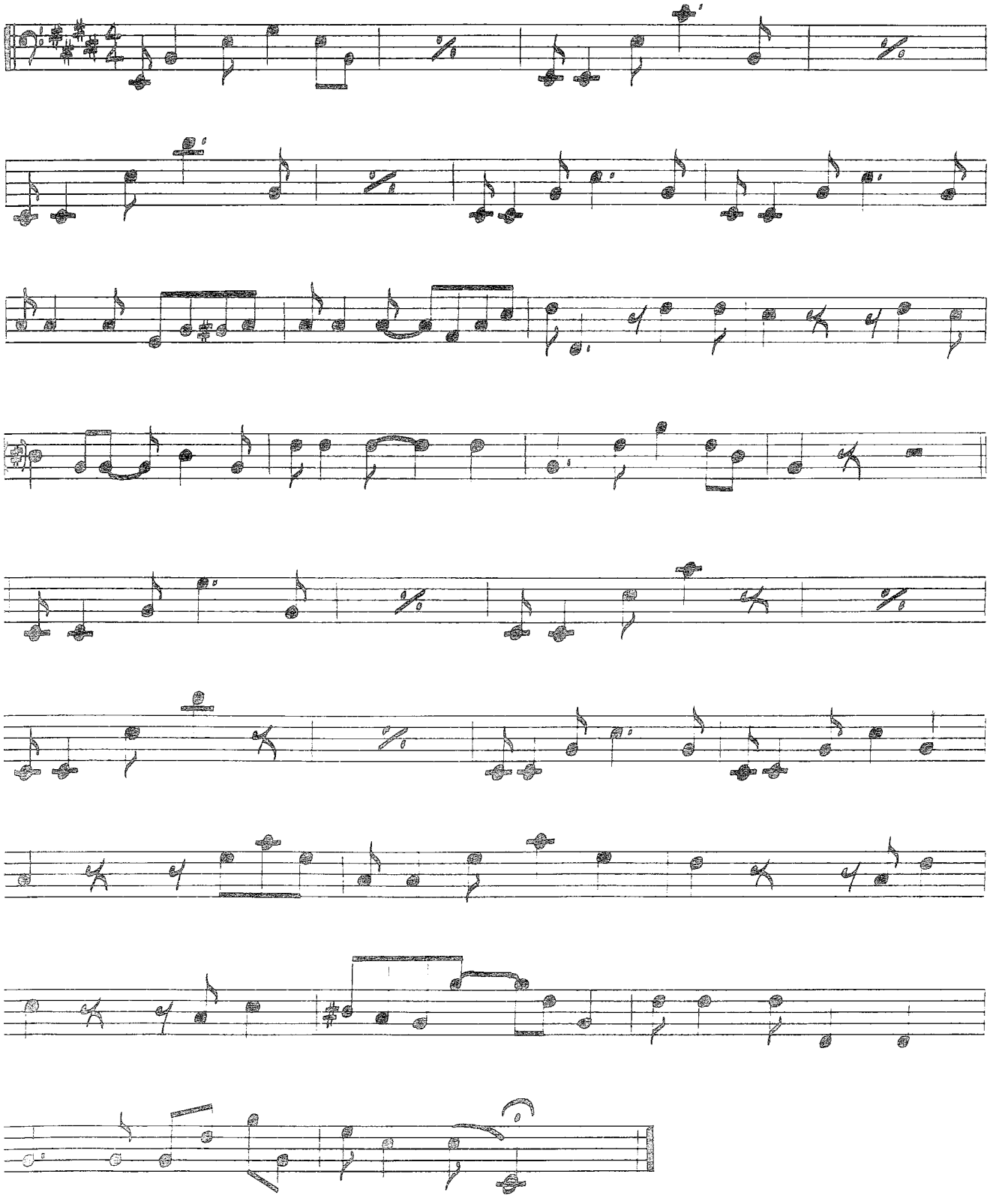


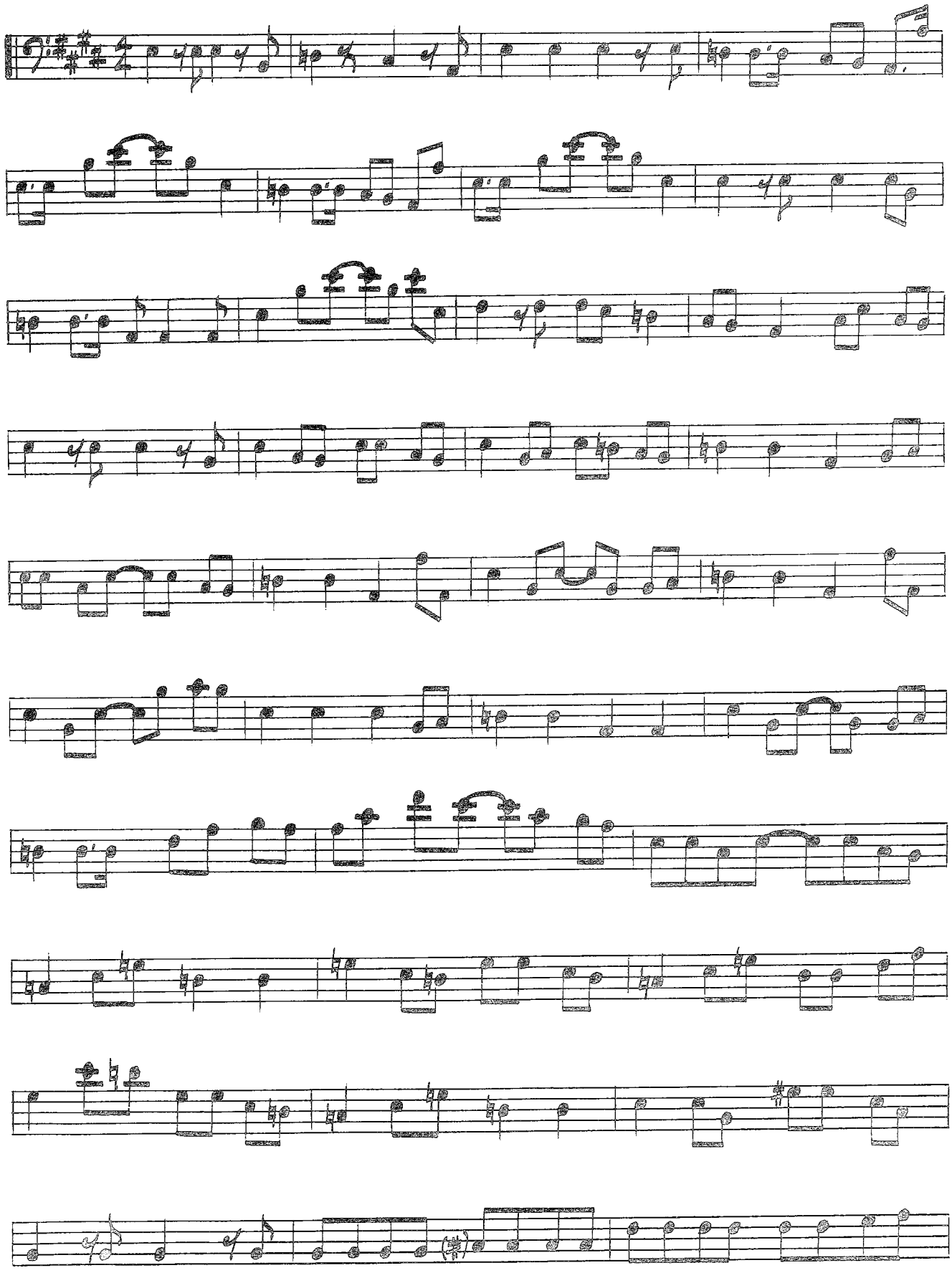


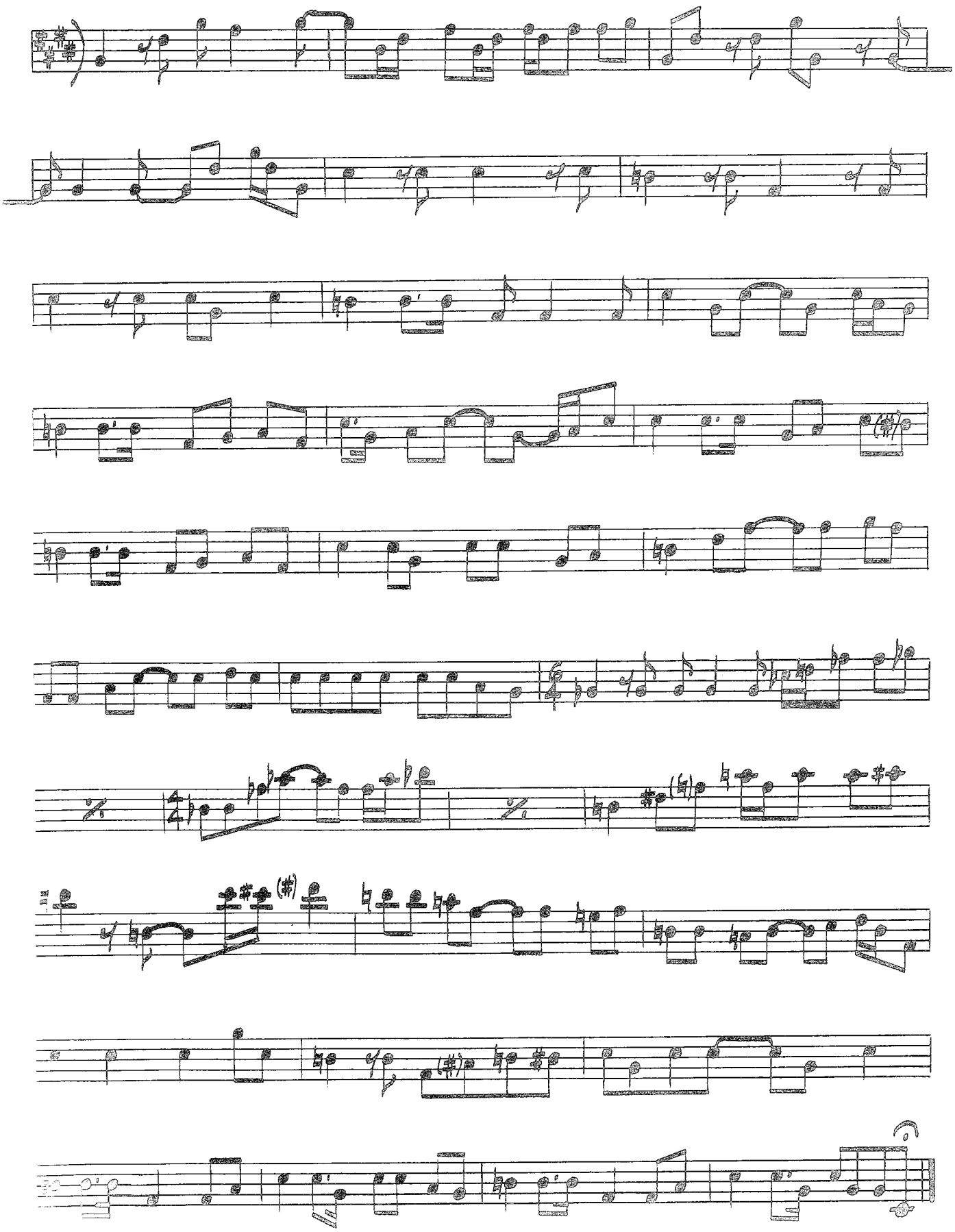


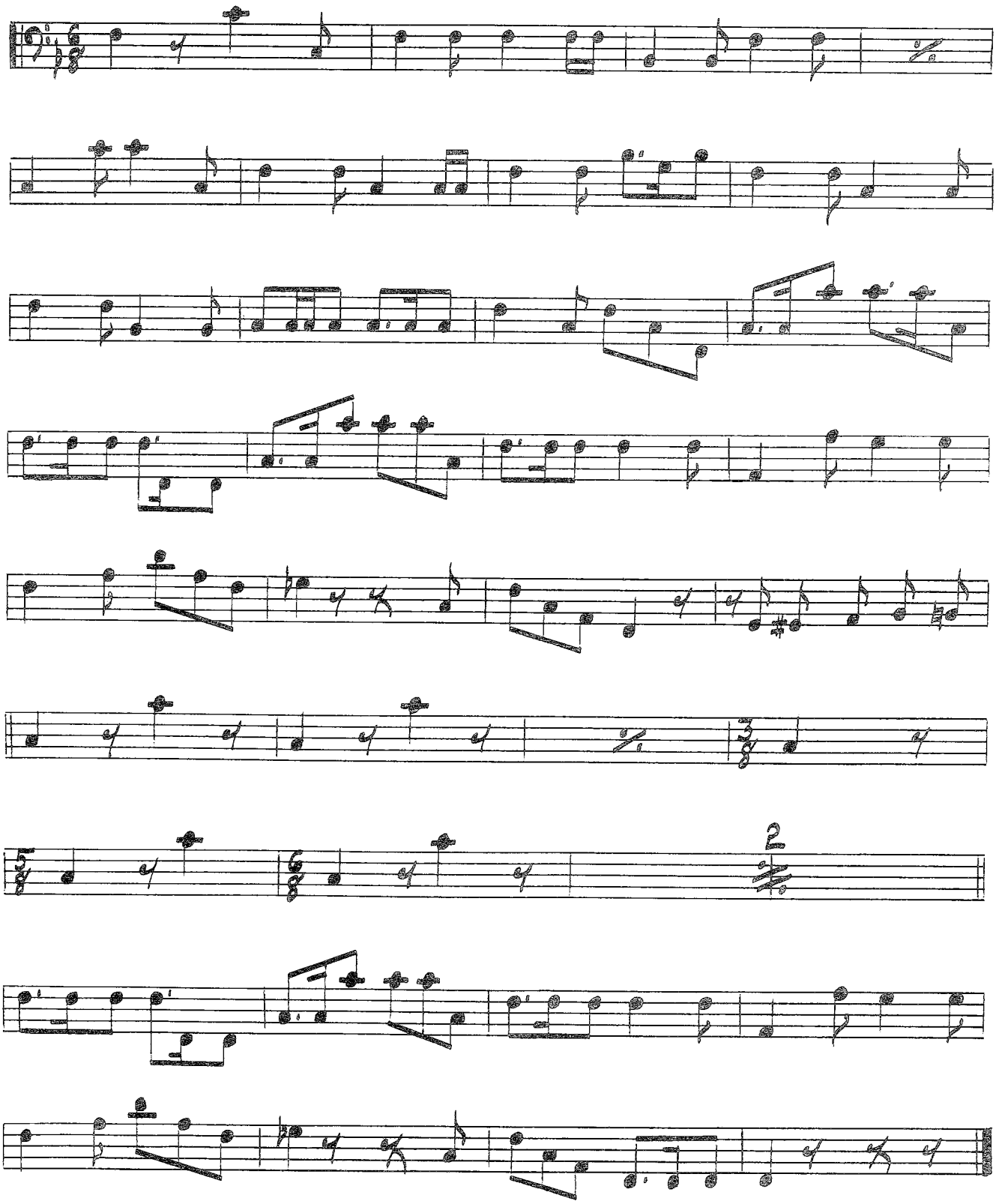



Ballad





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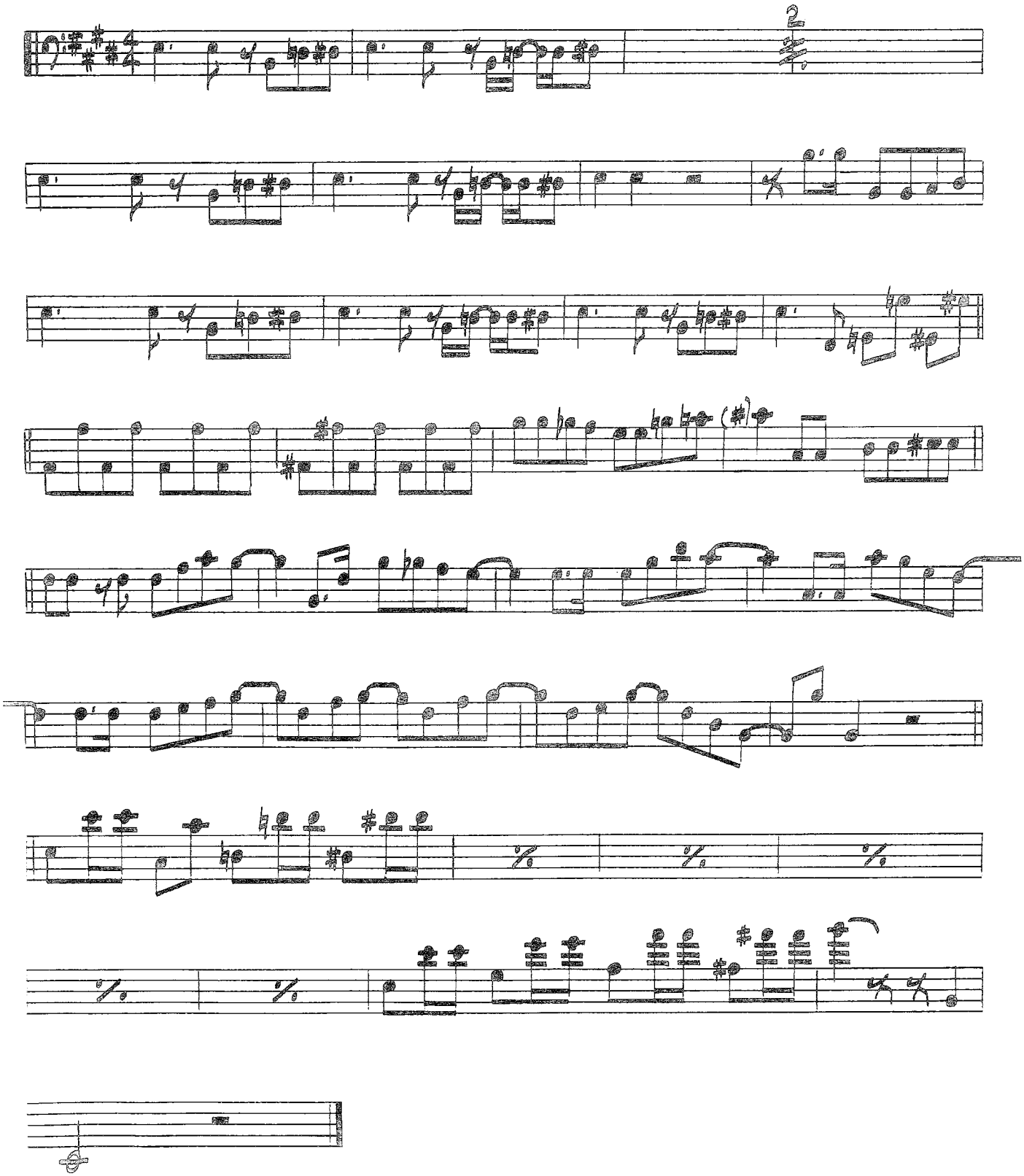
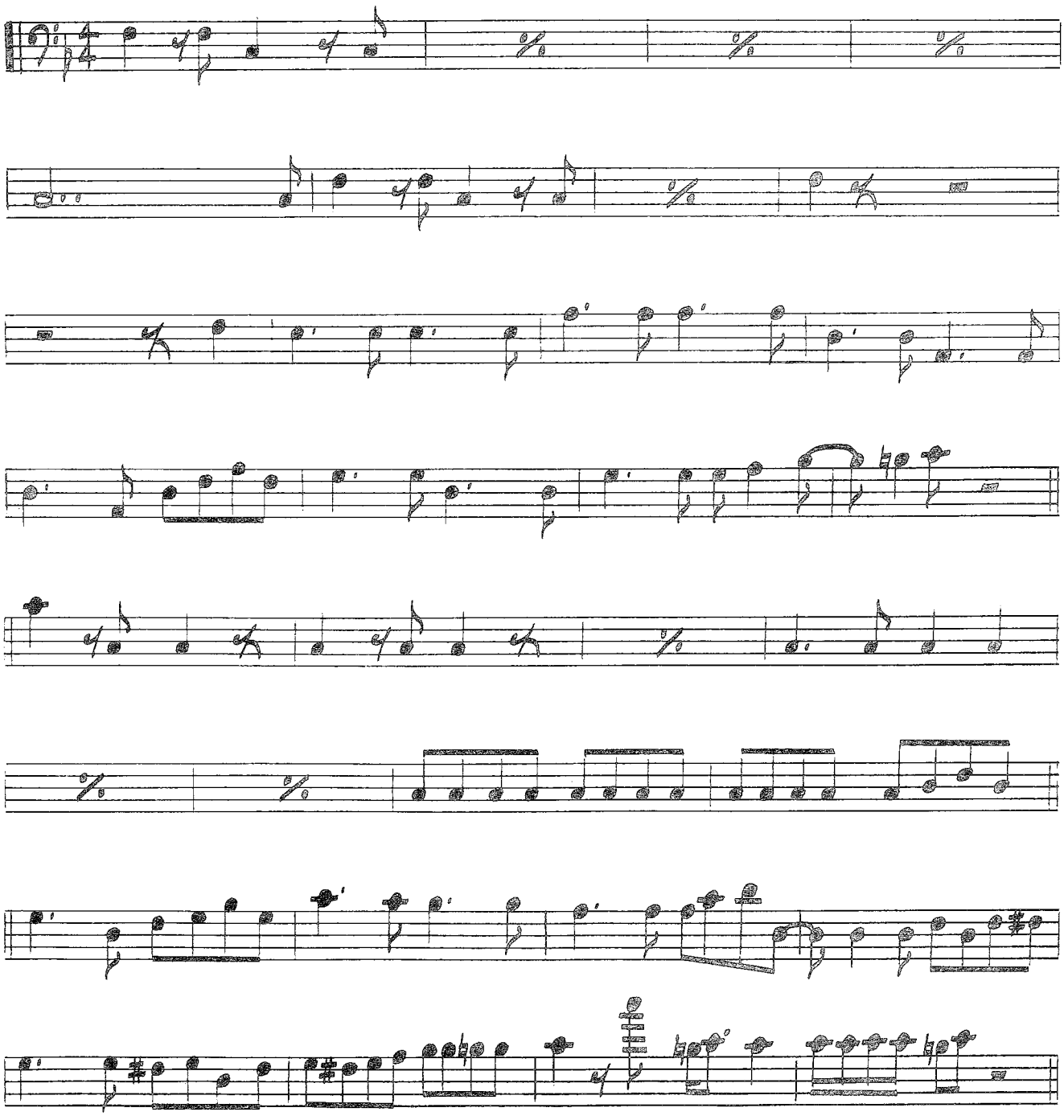
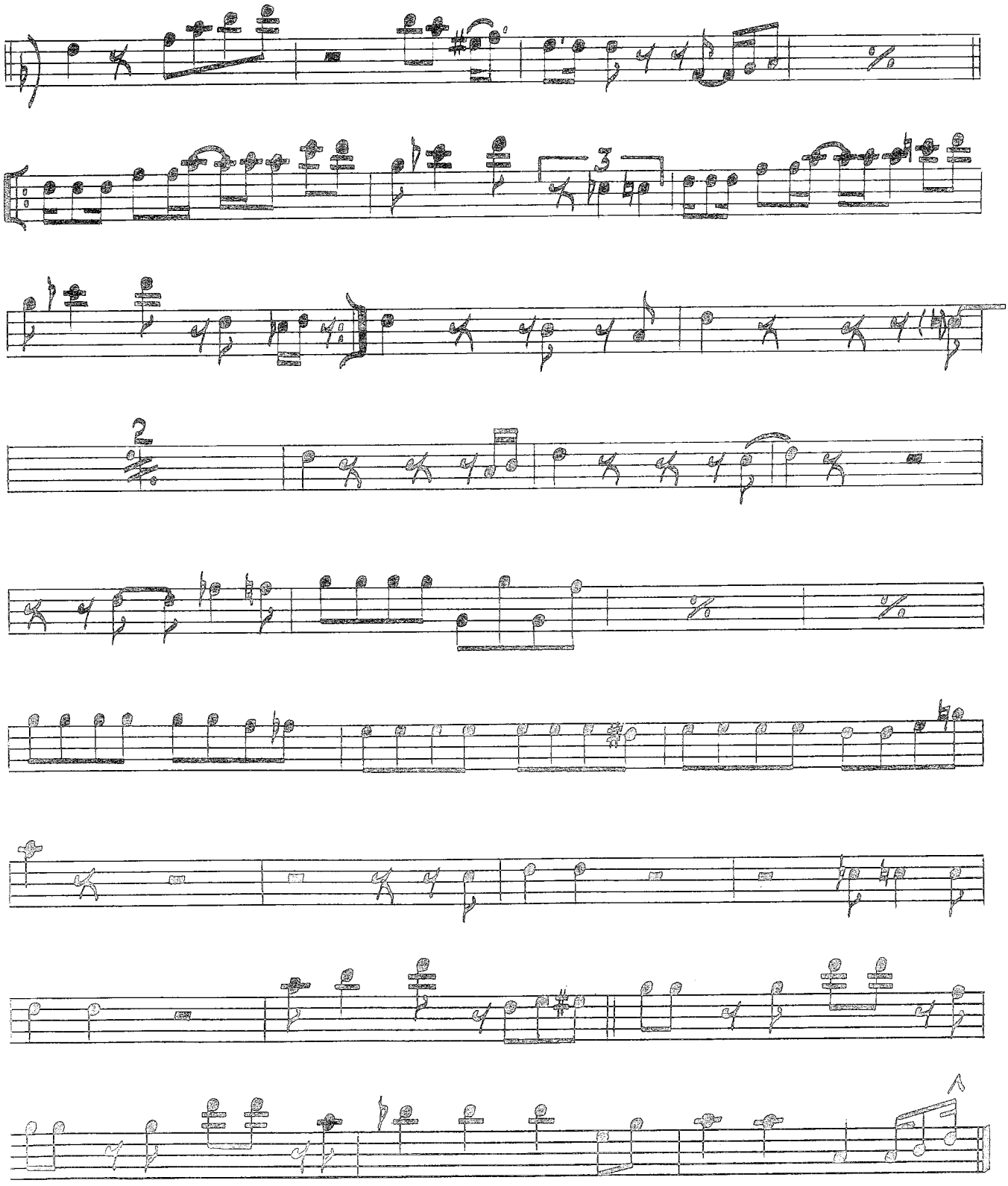
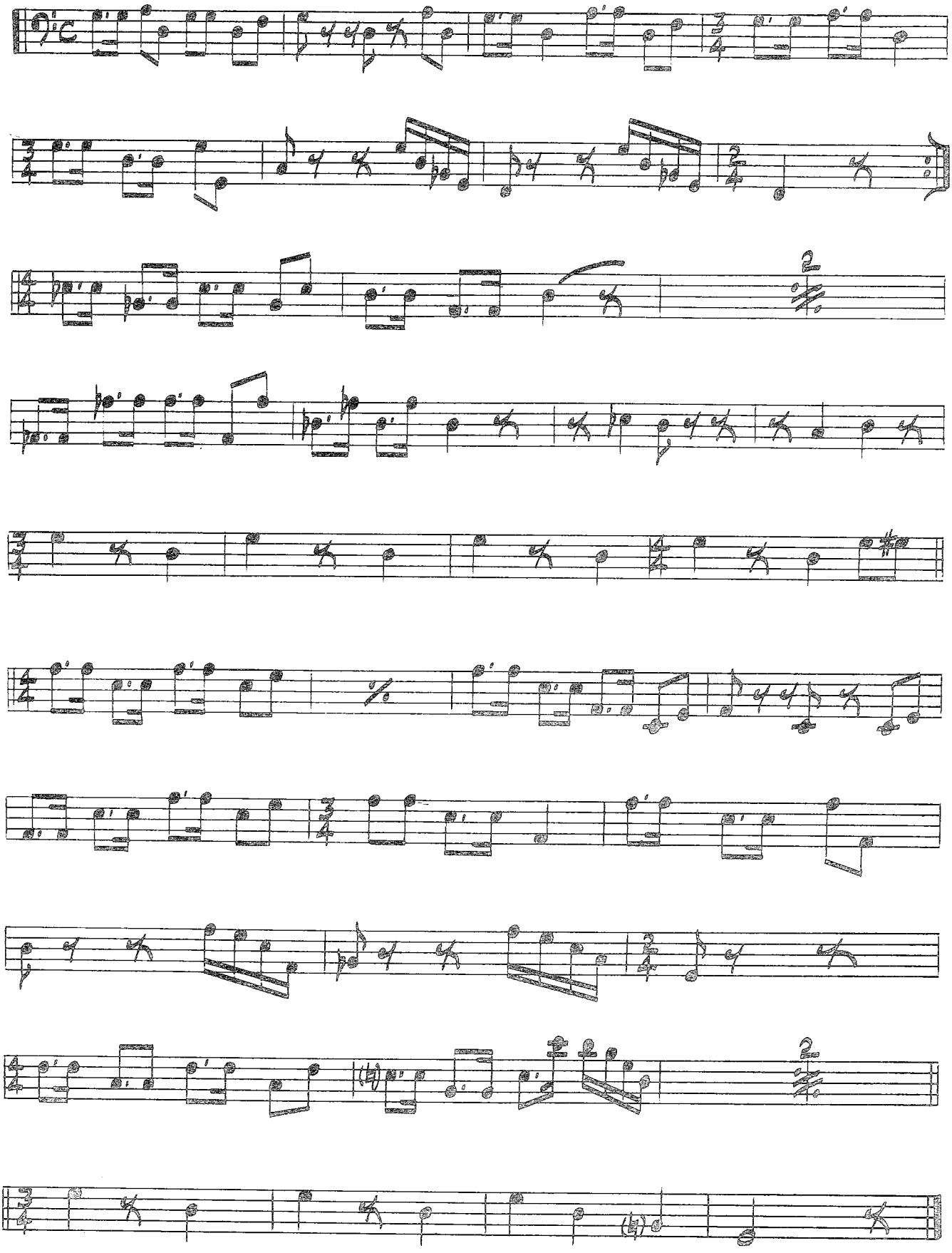
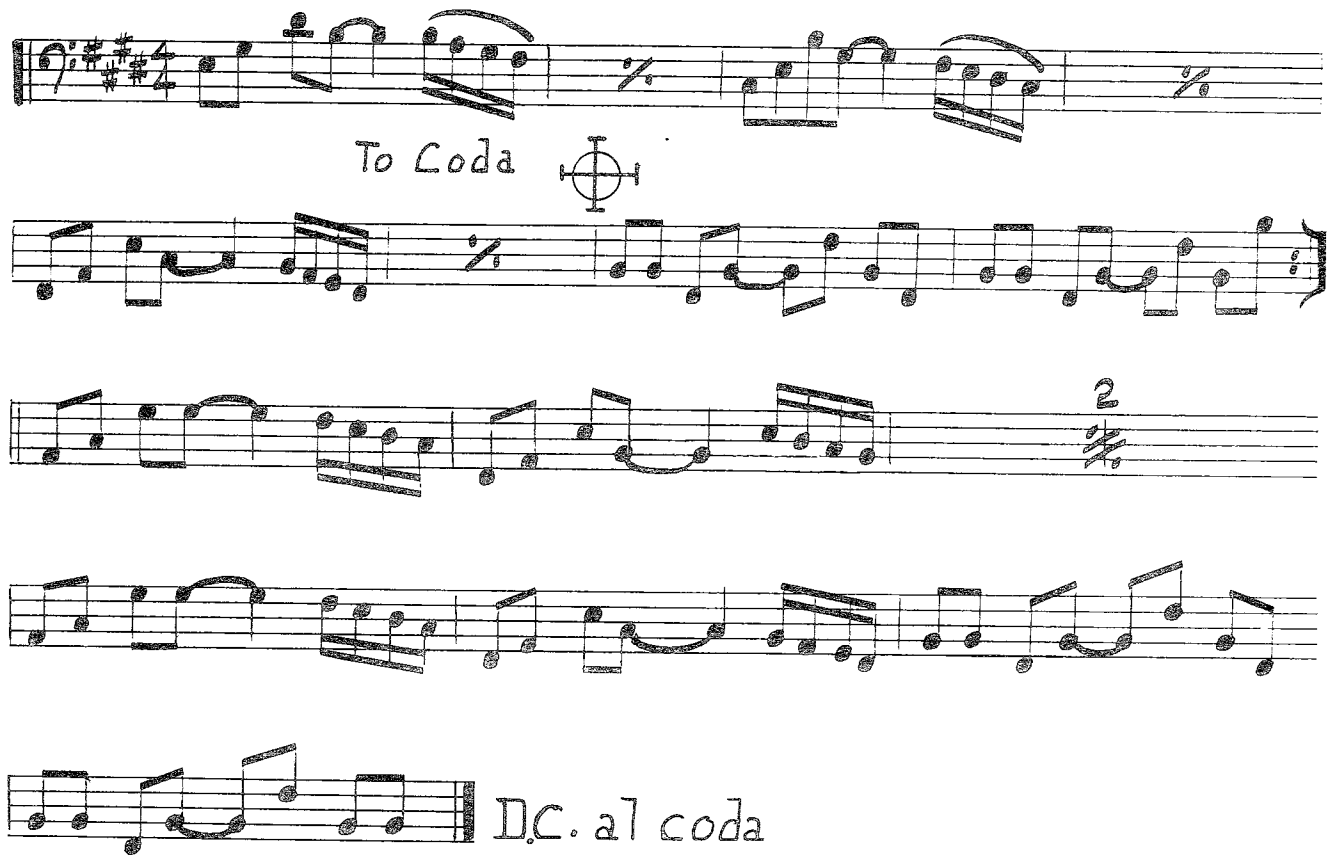
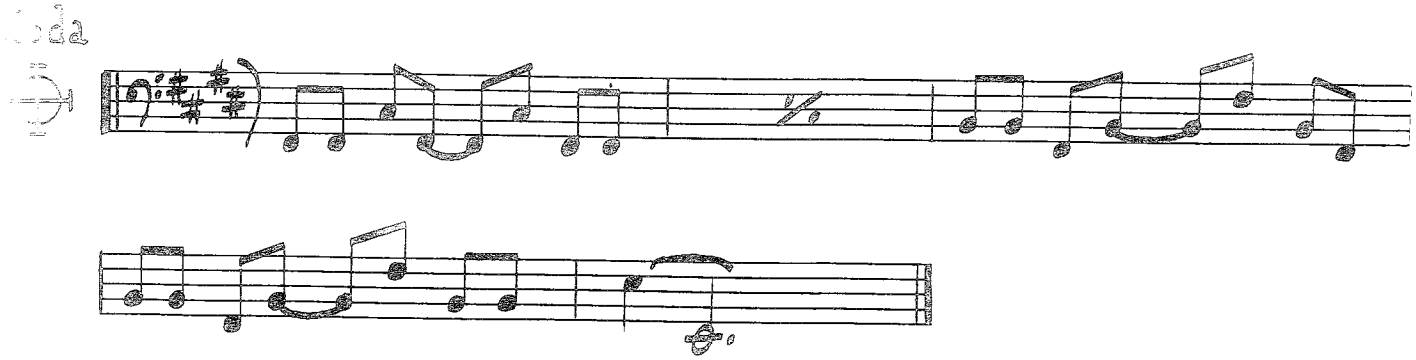









To Coda
2
D.C. al coda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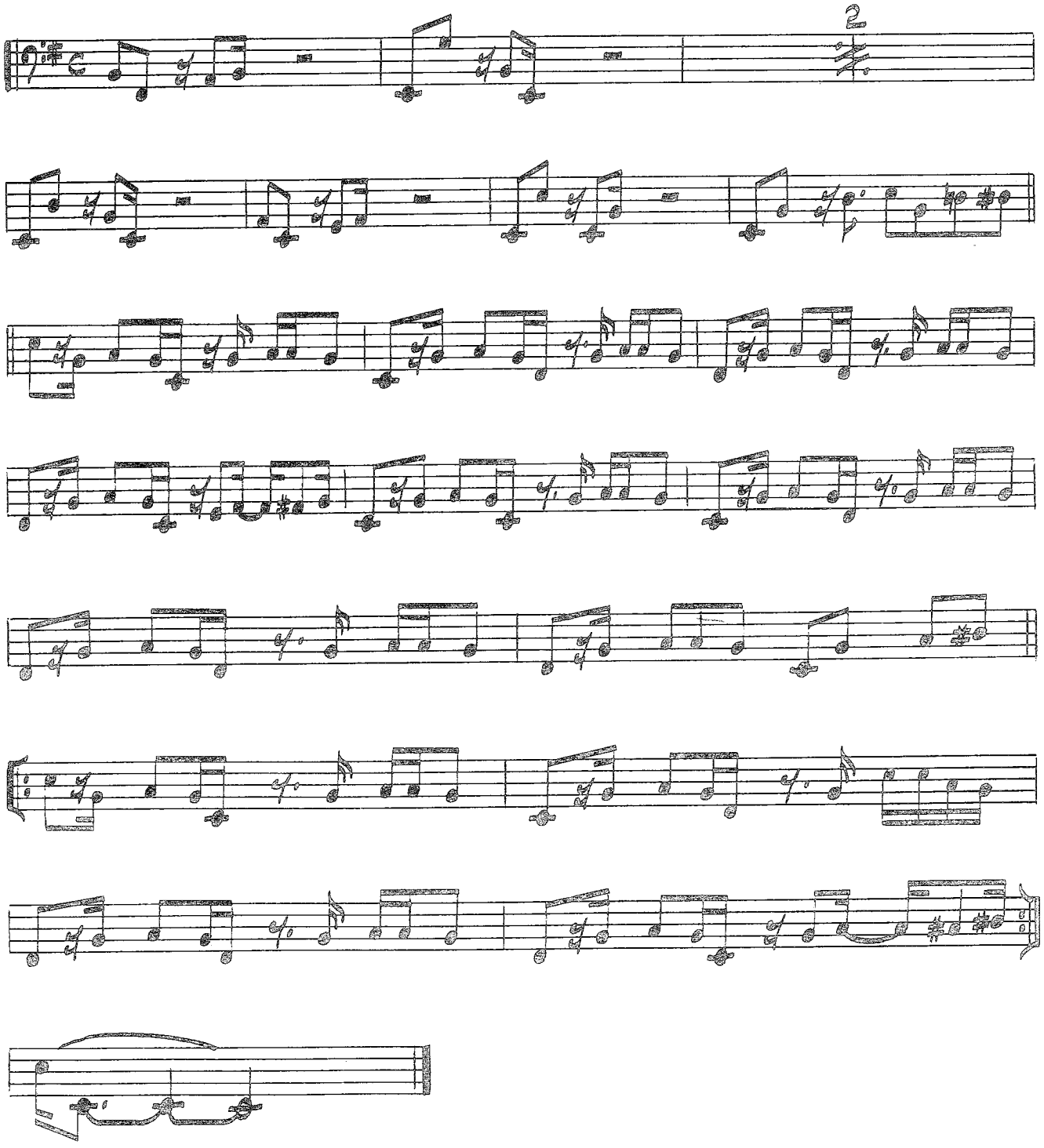

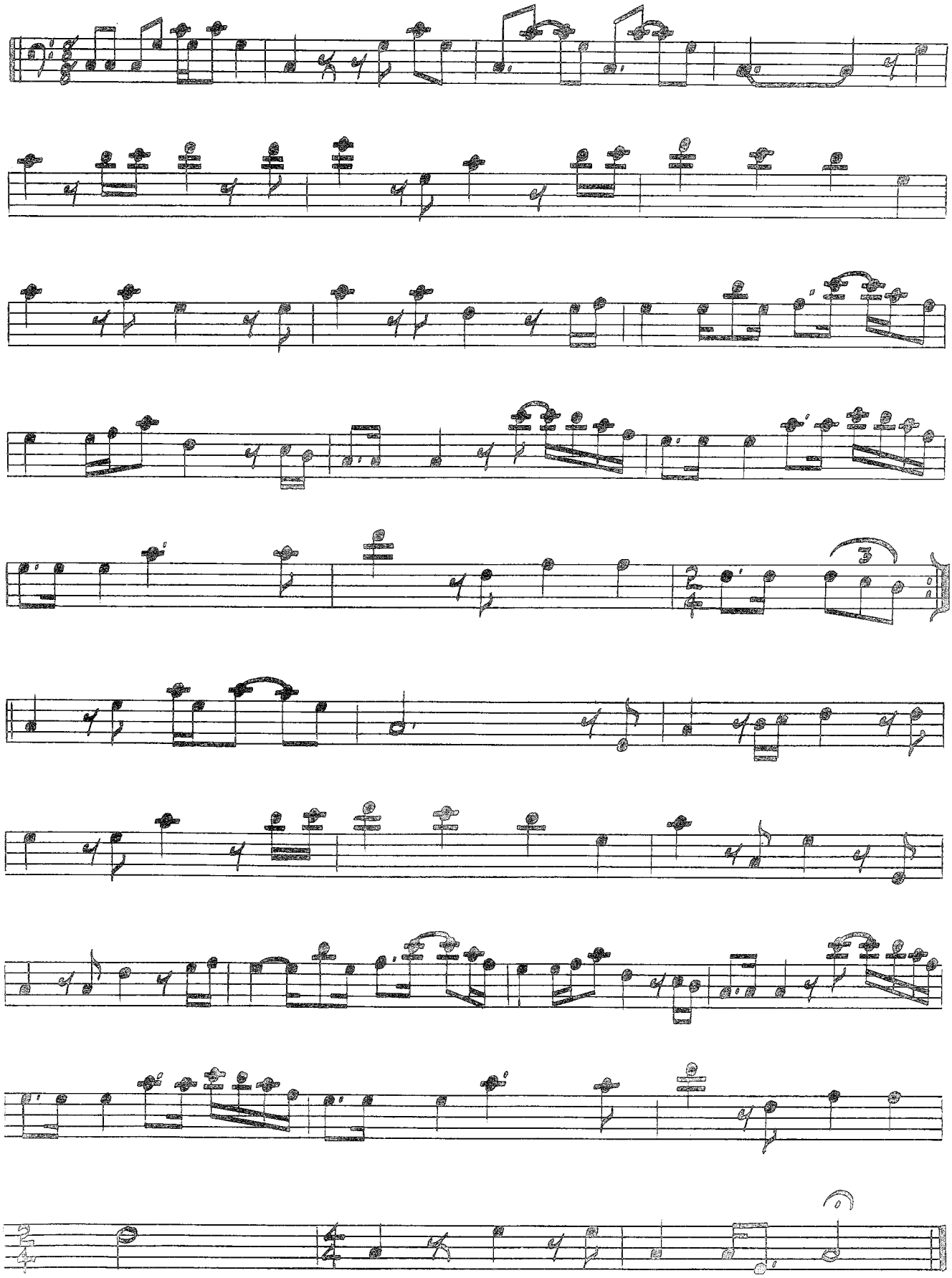

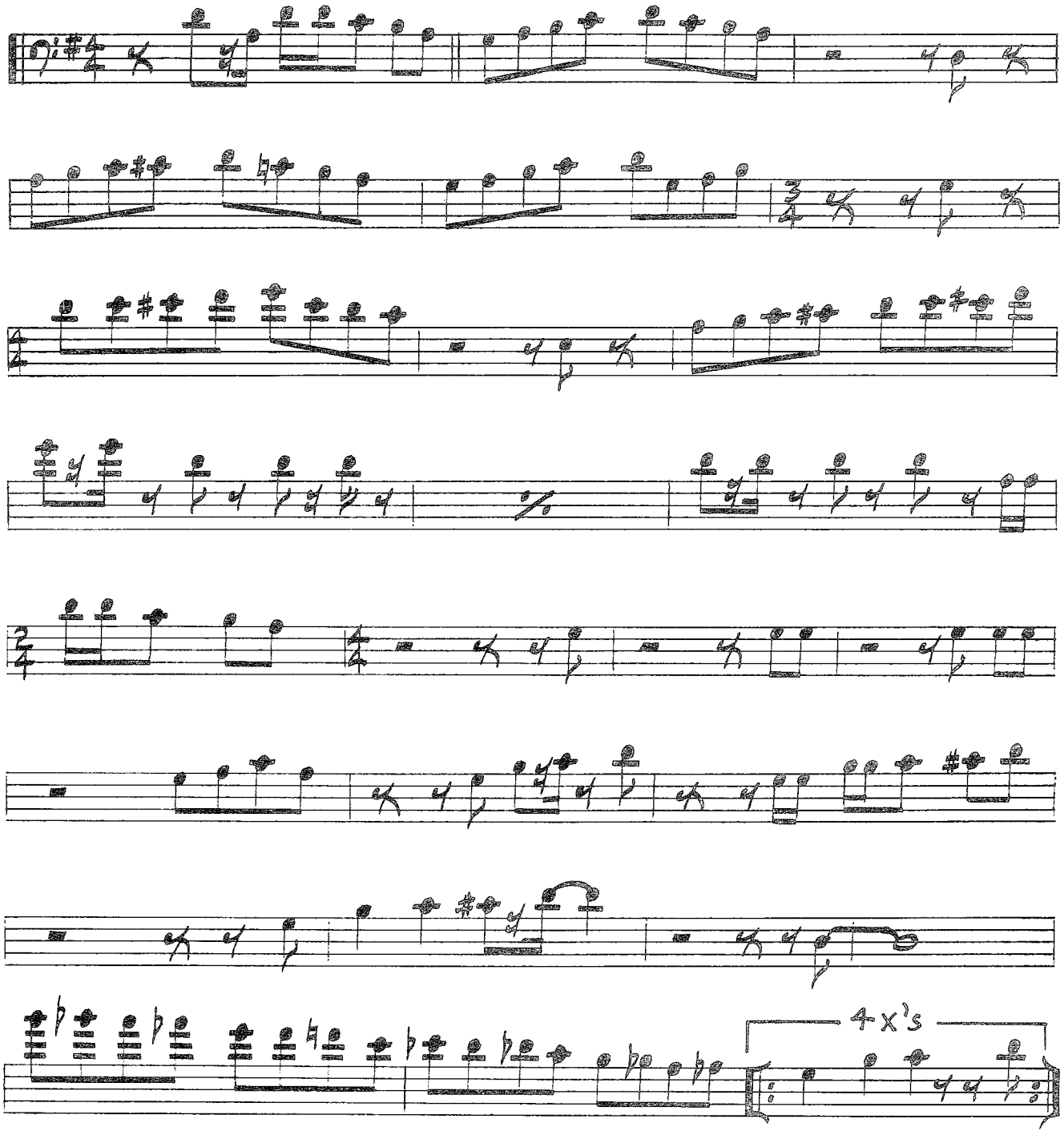
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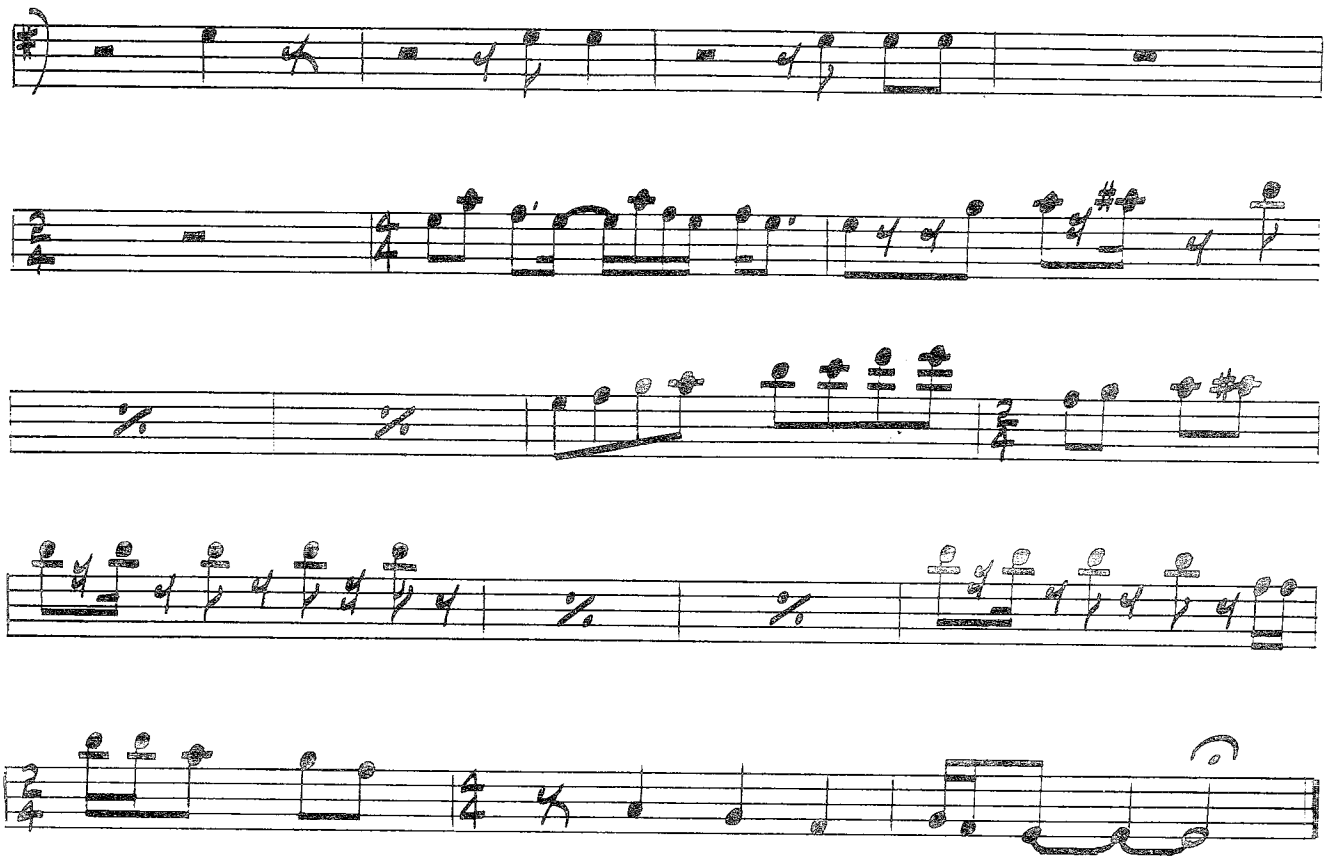

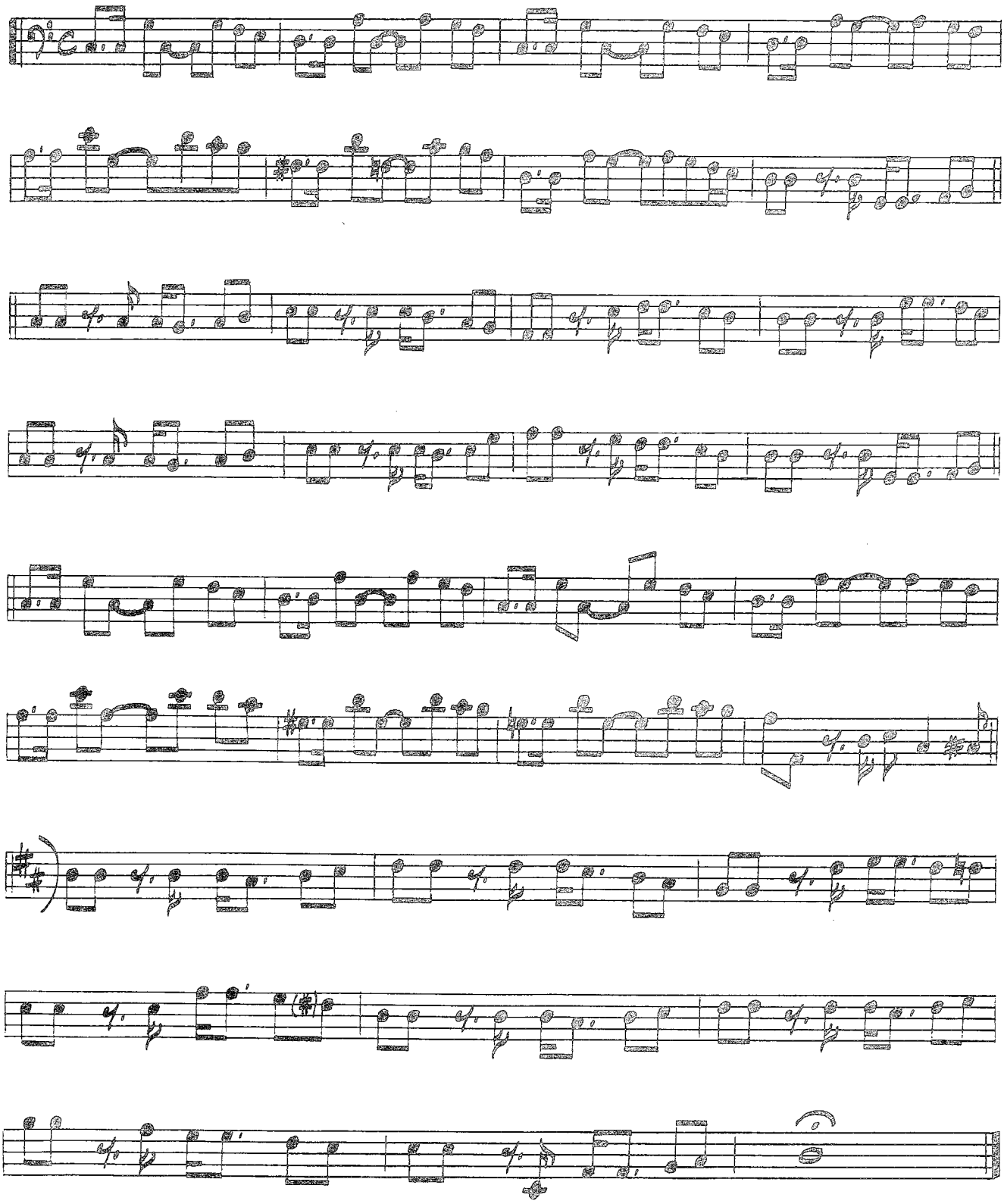

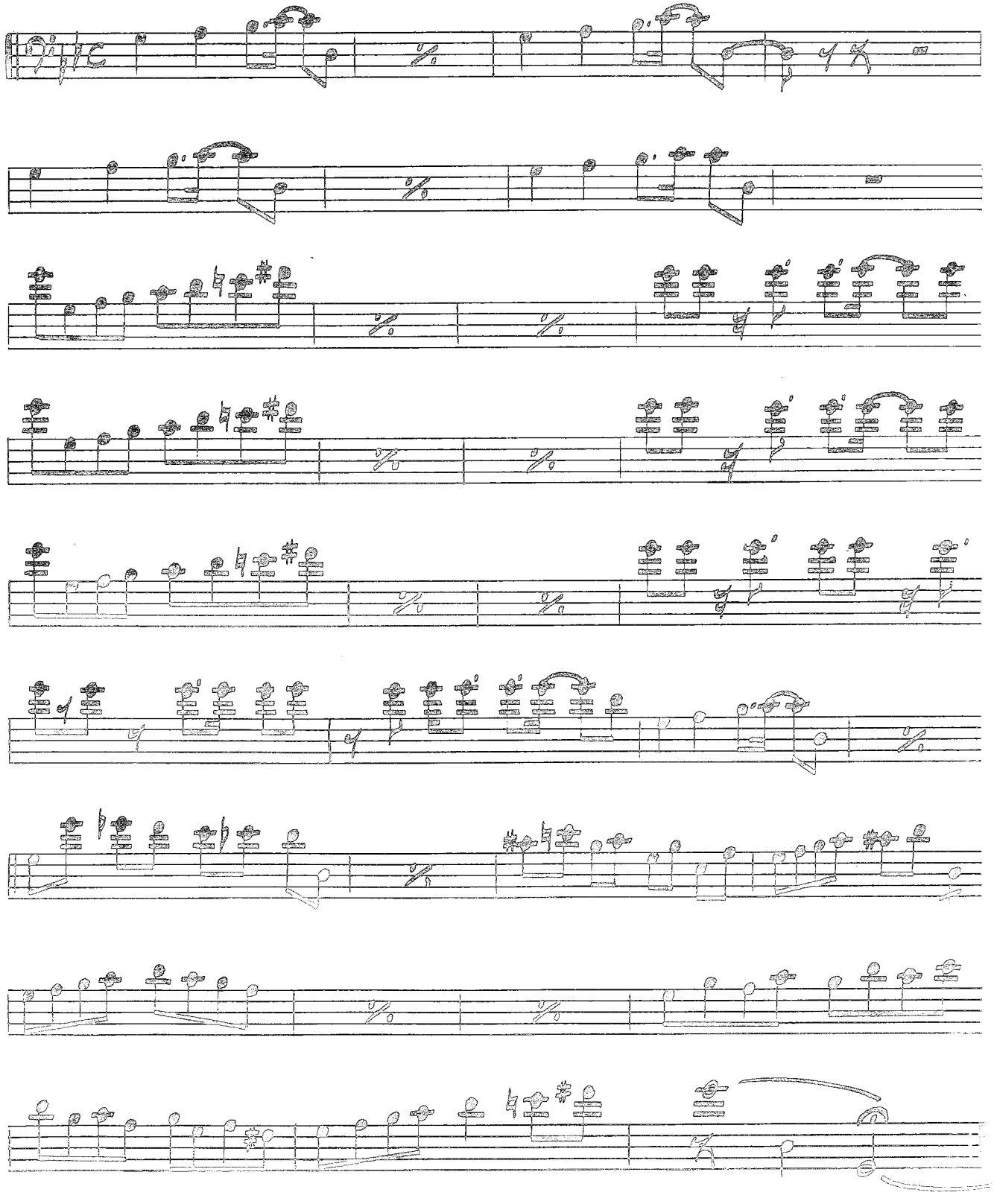

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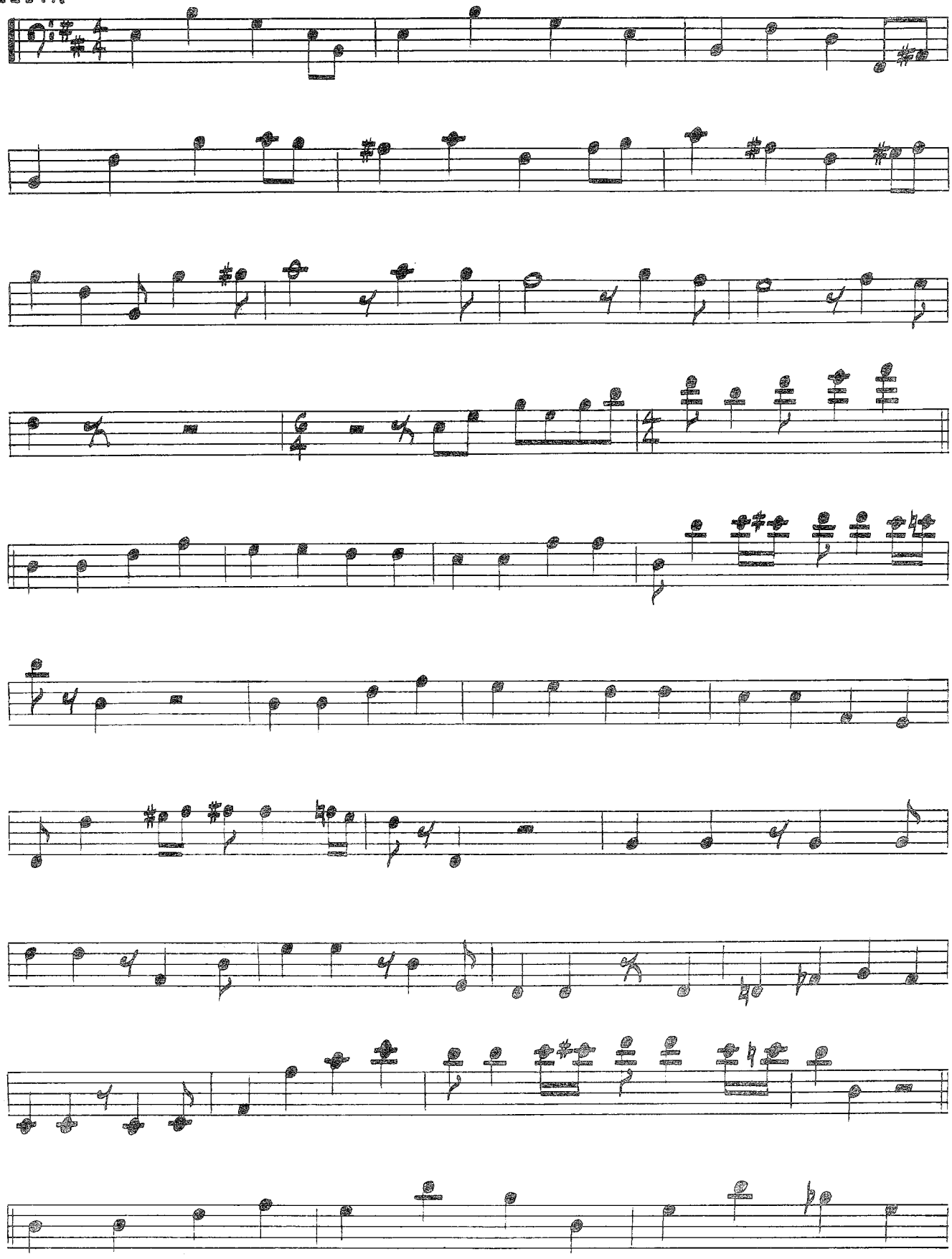

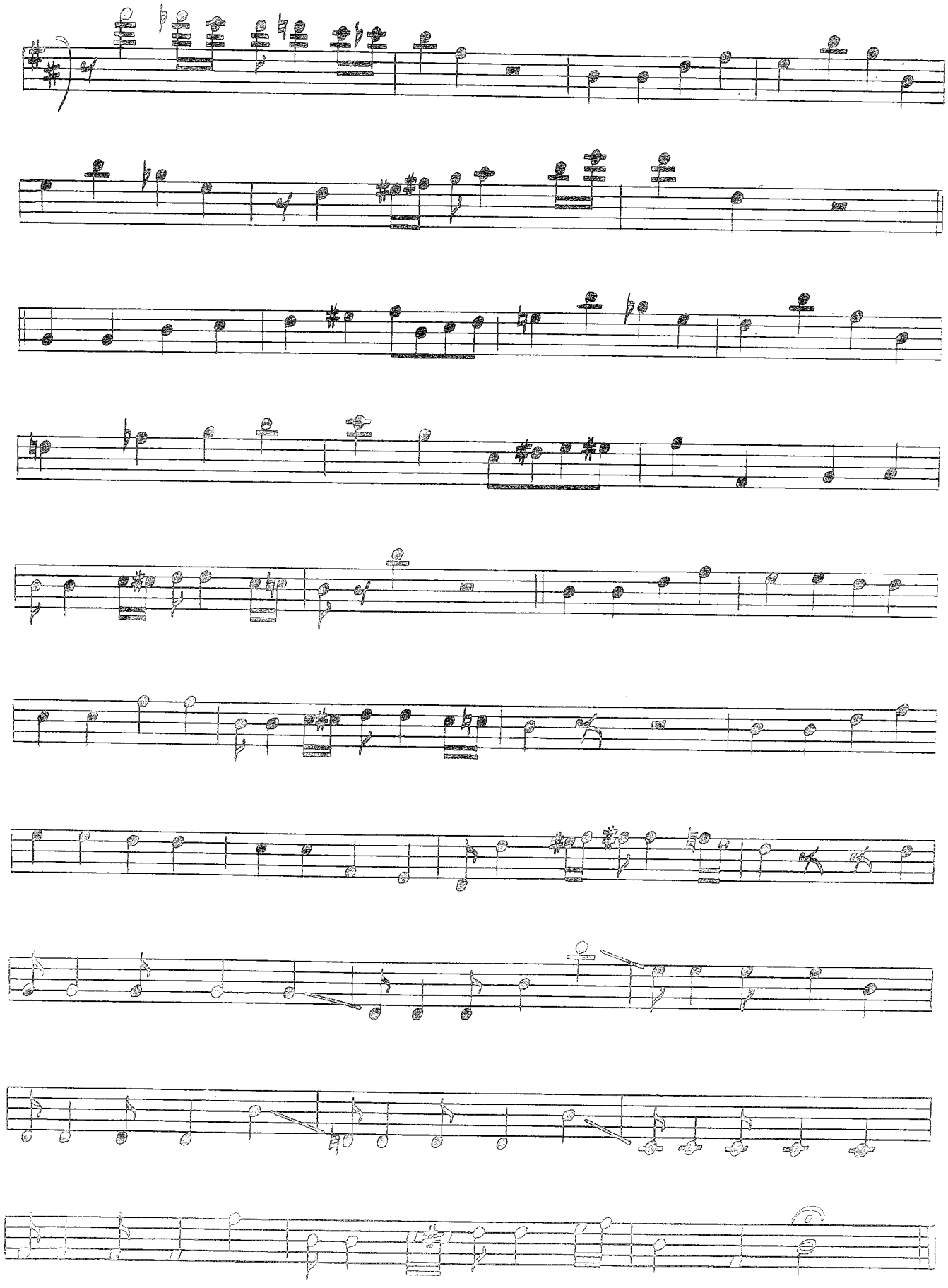

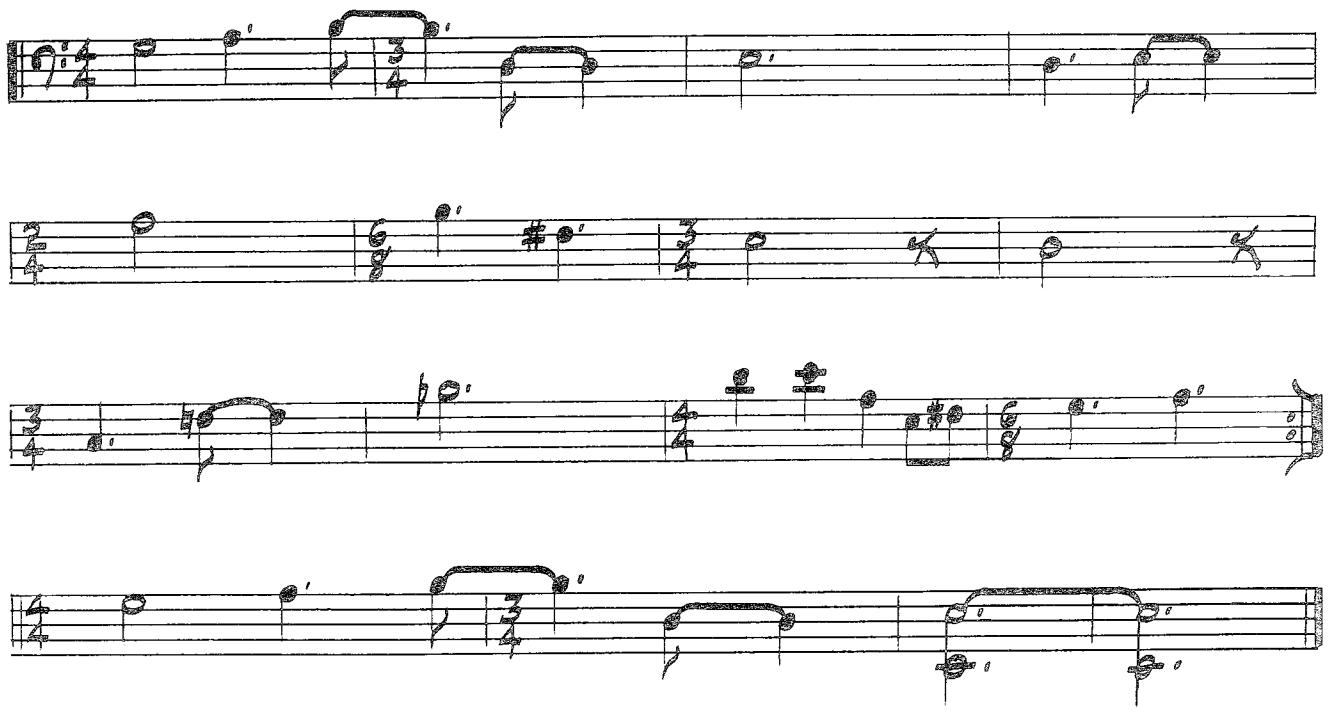

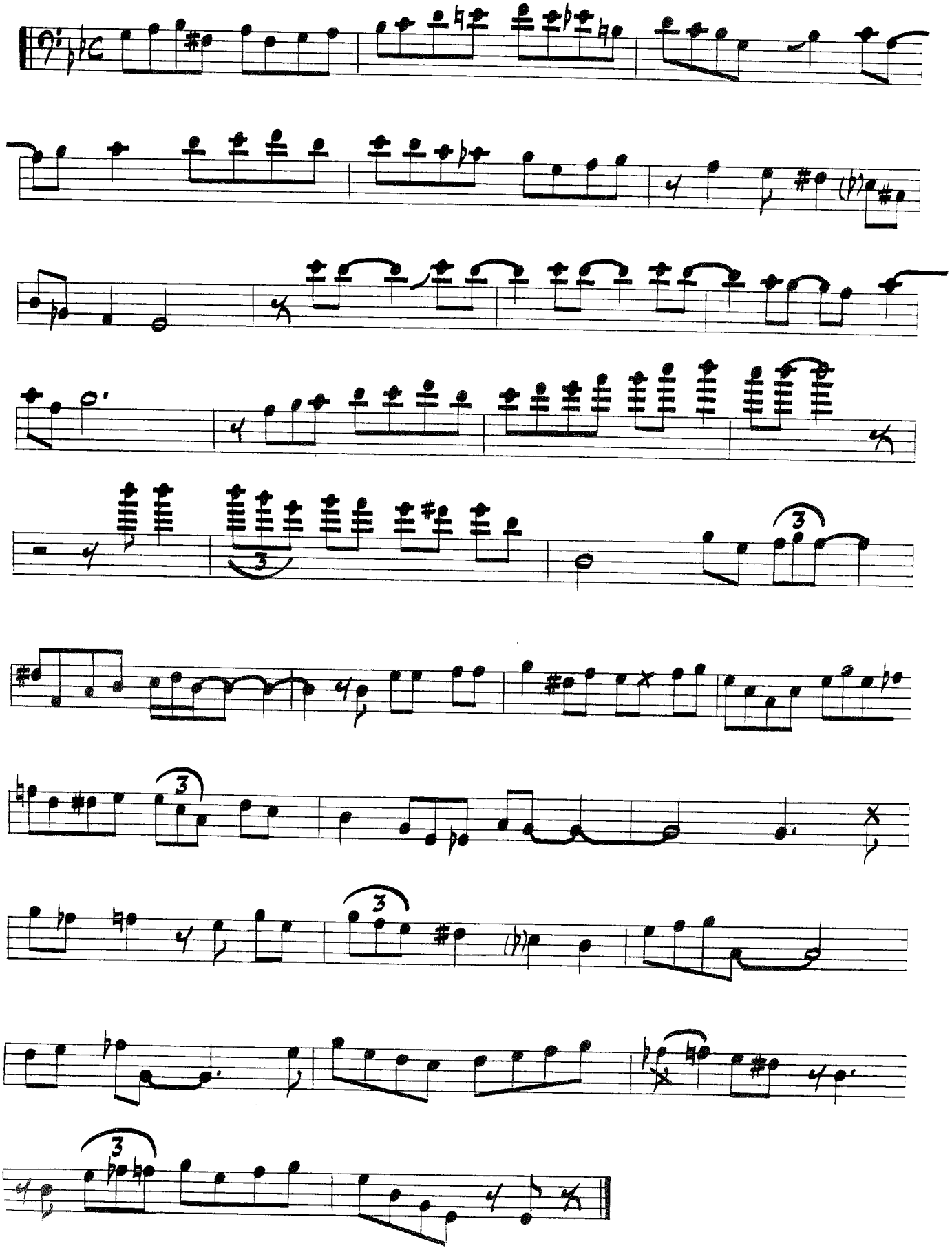

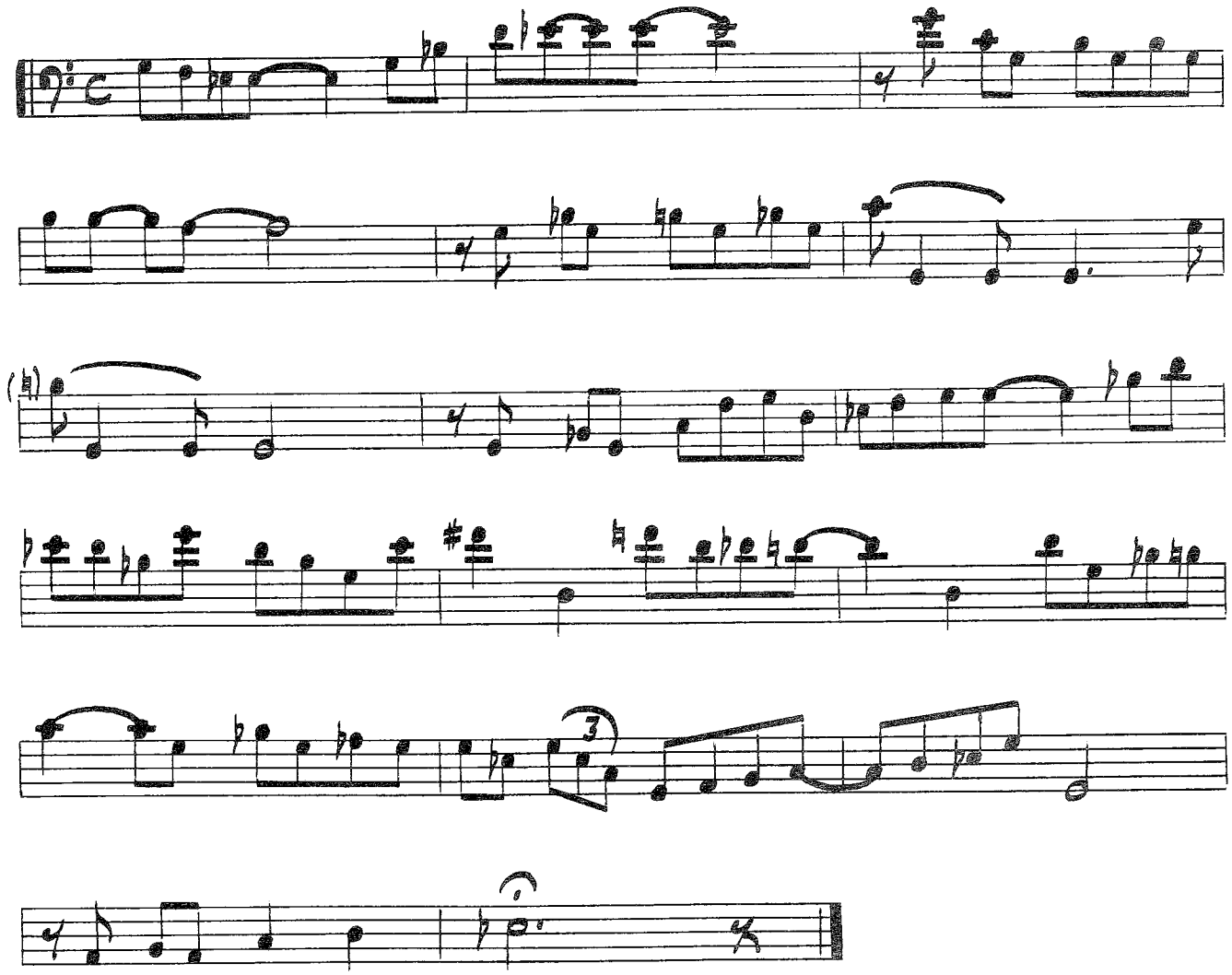

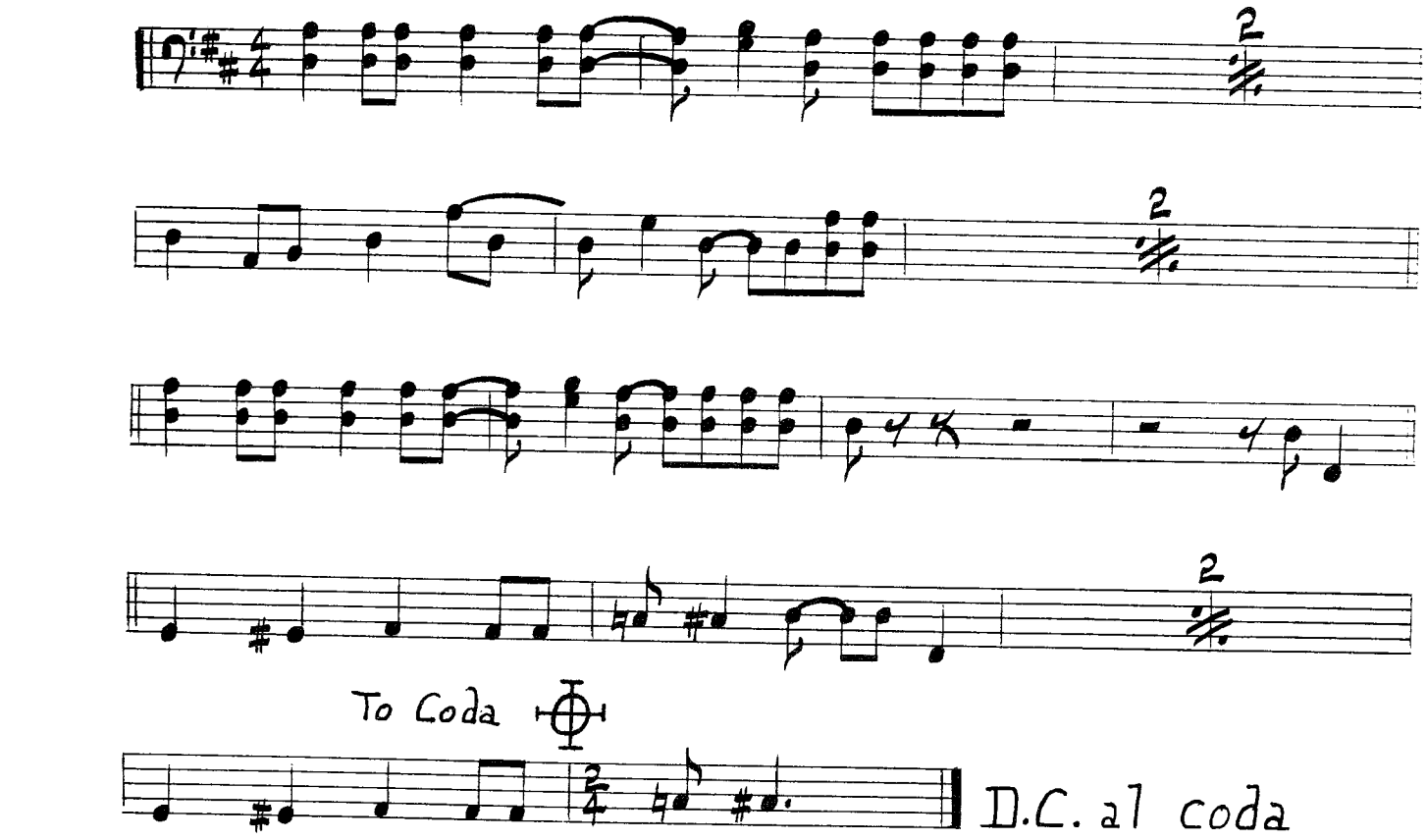
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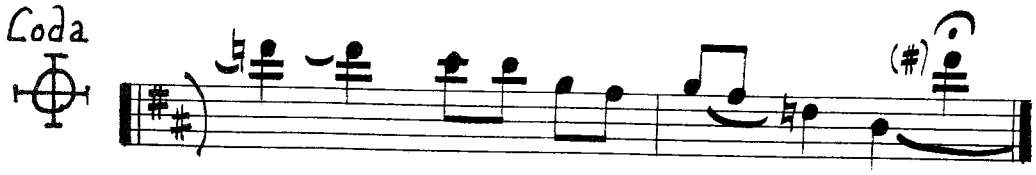
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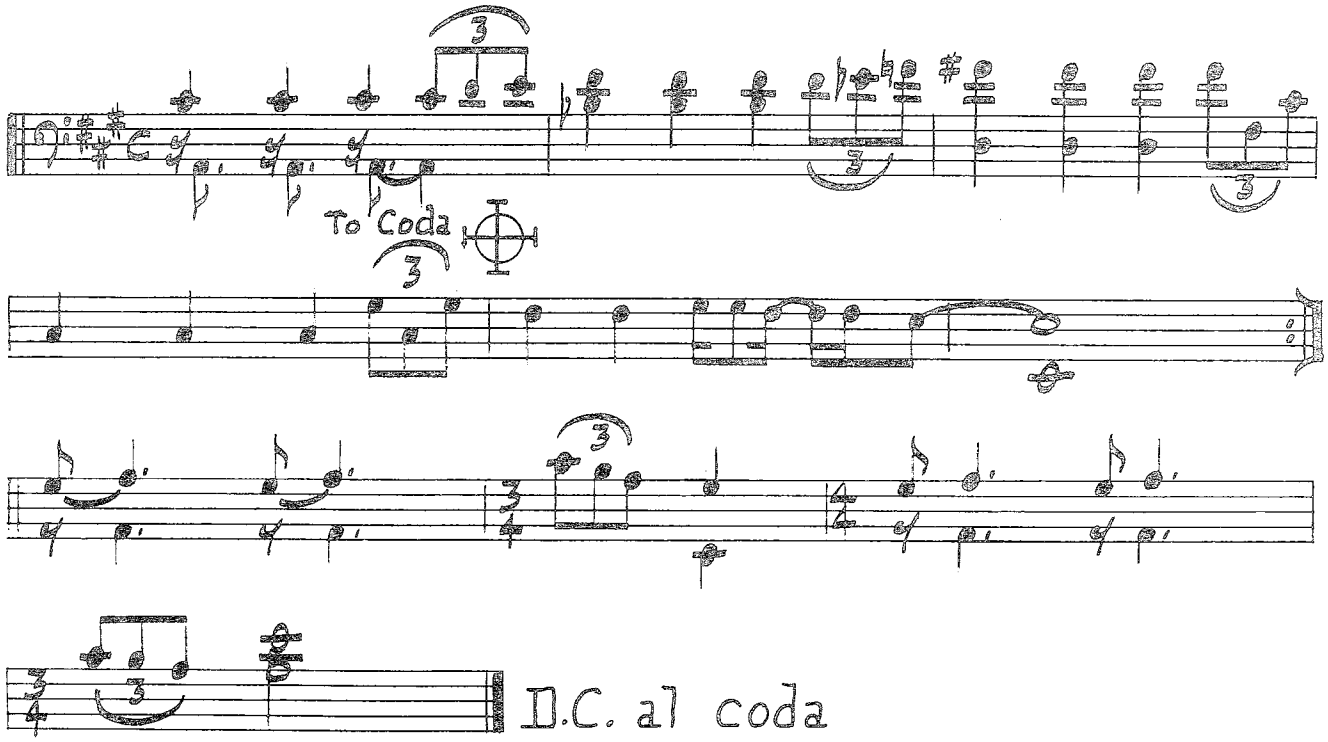
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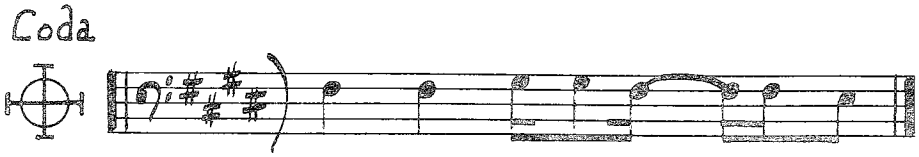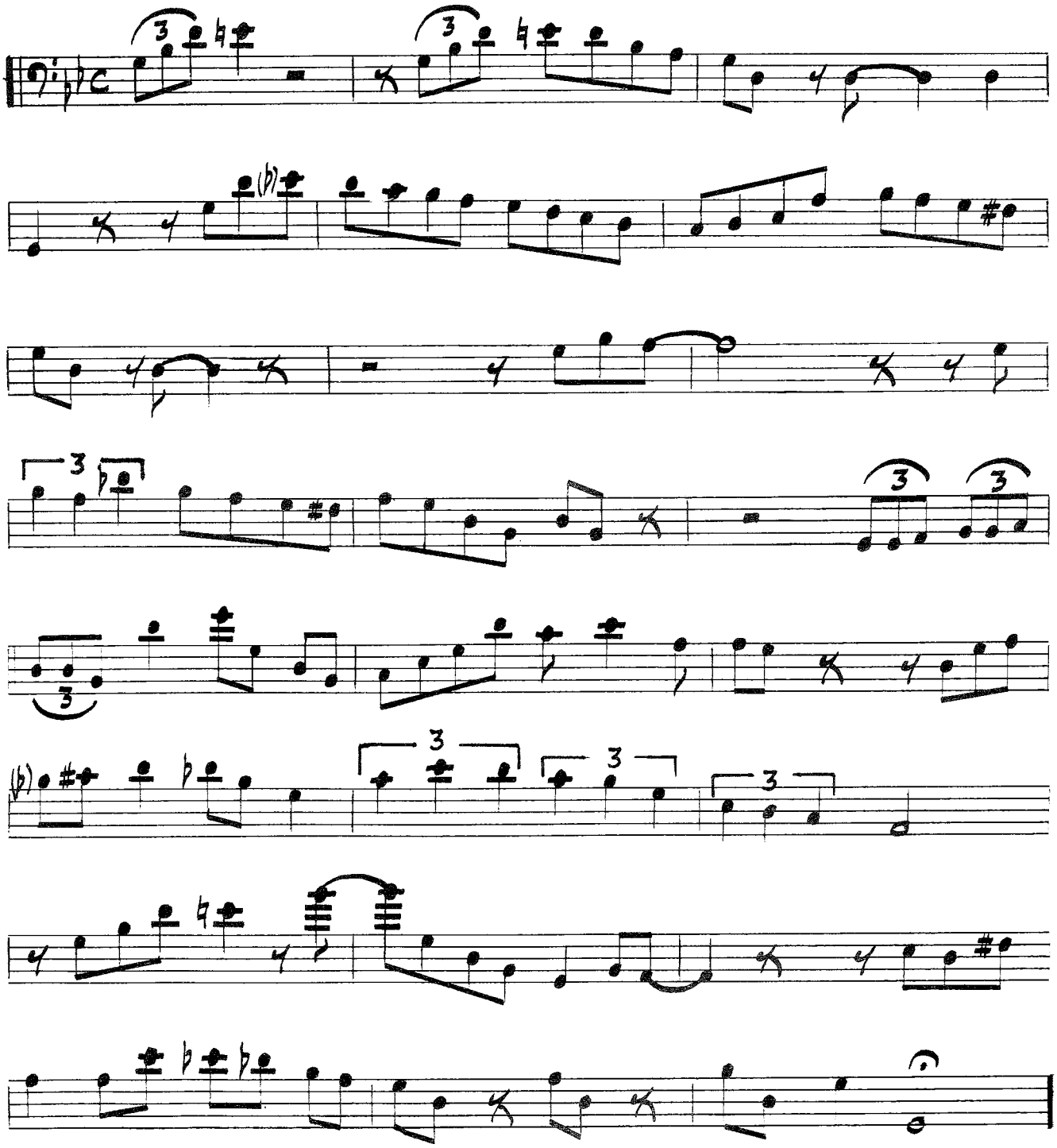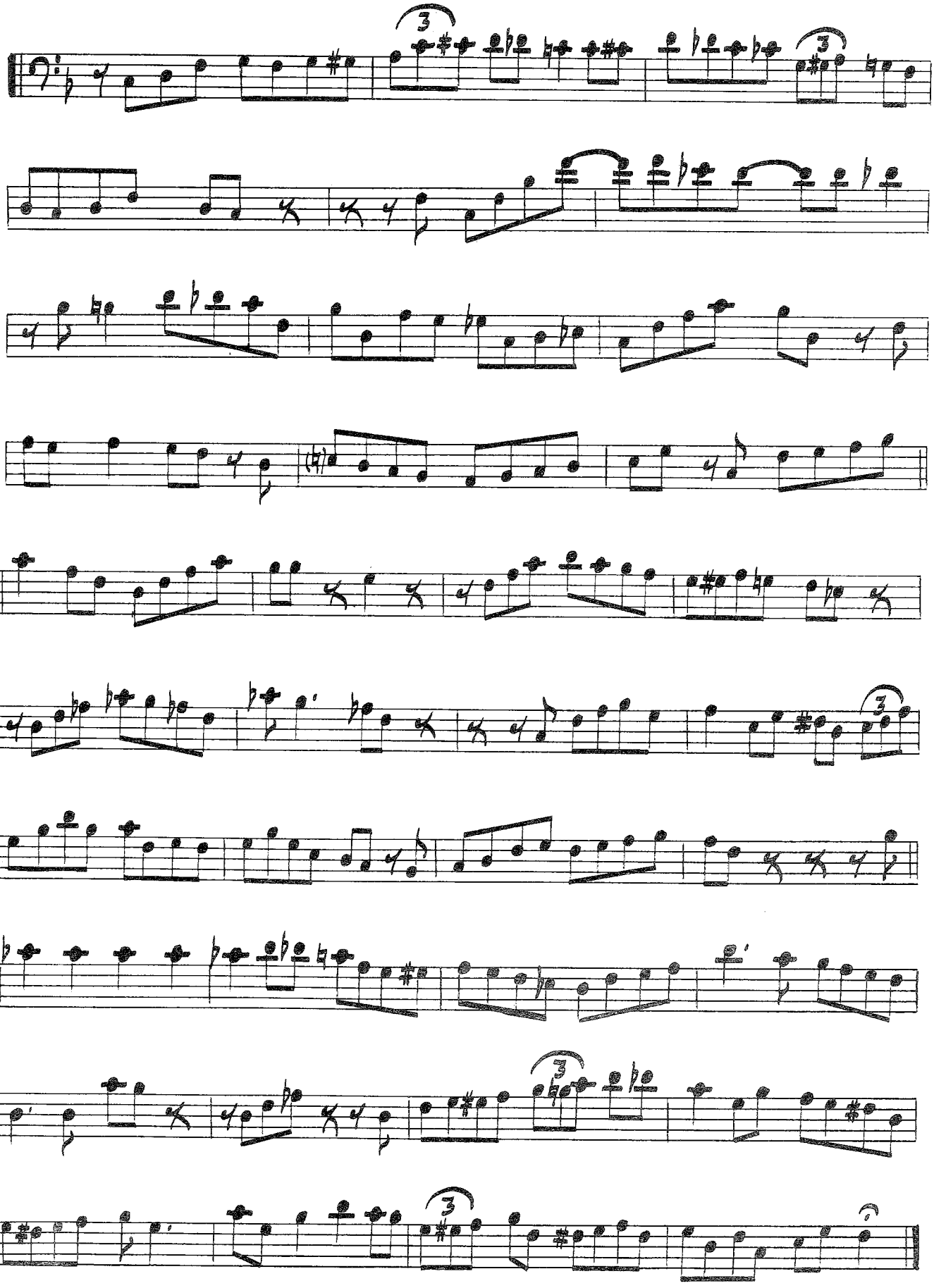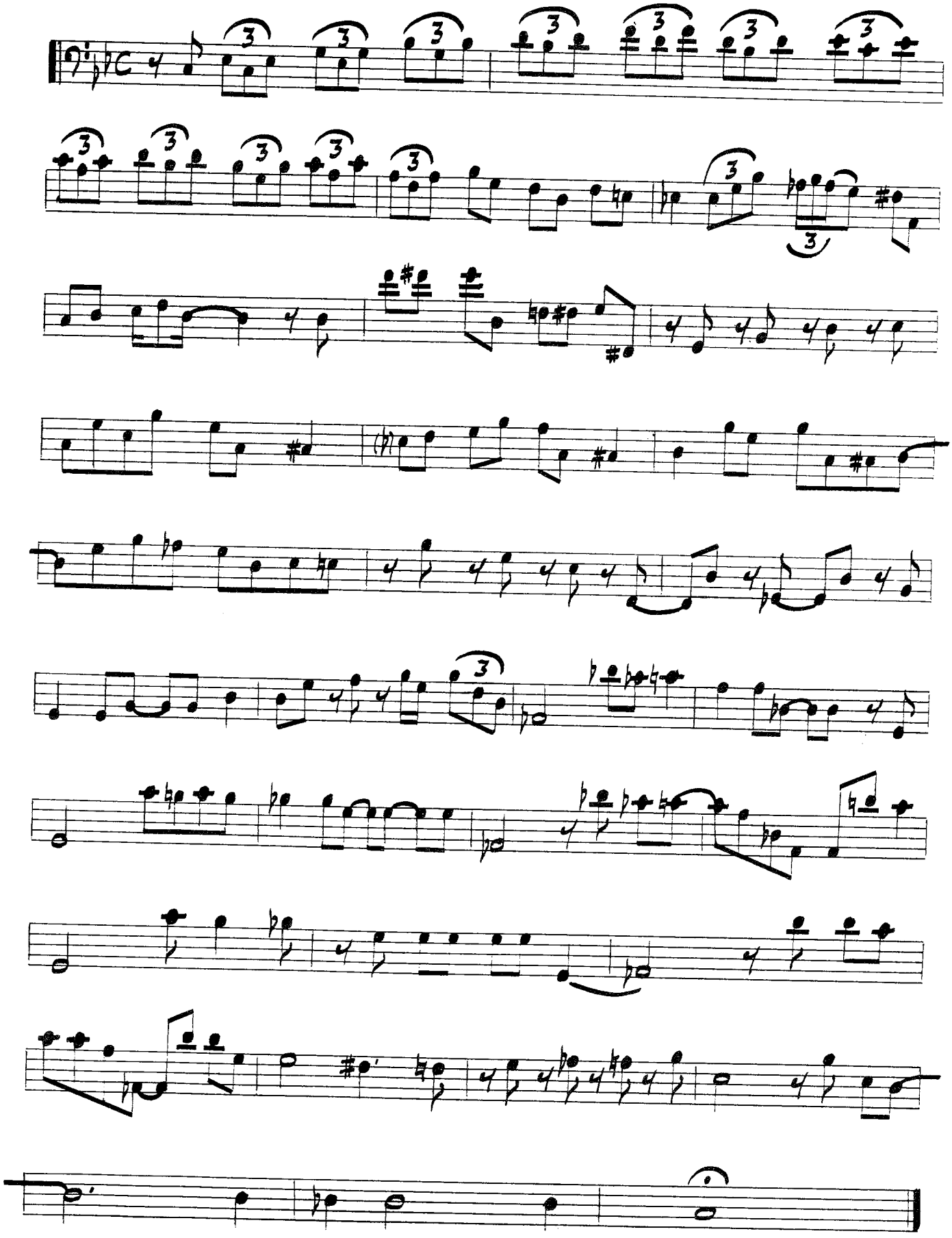
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